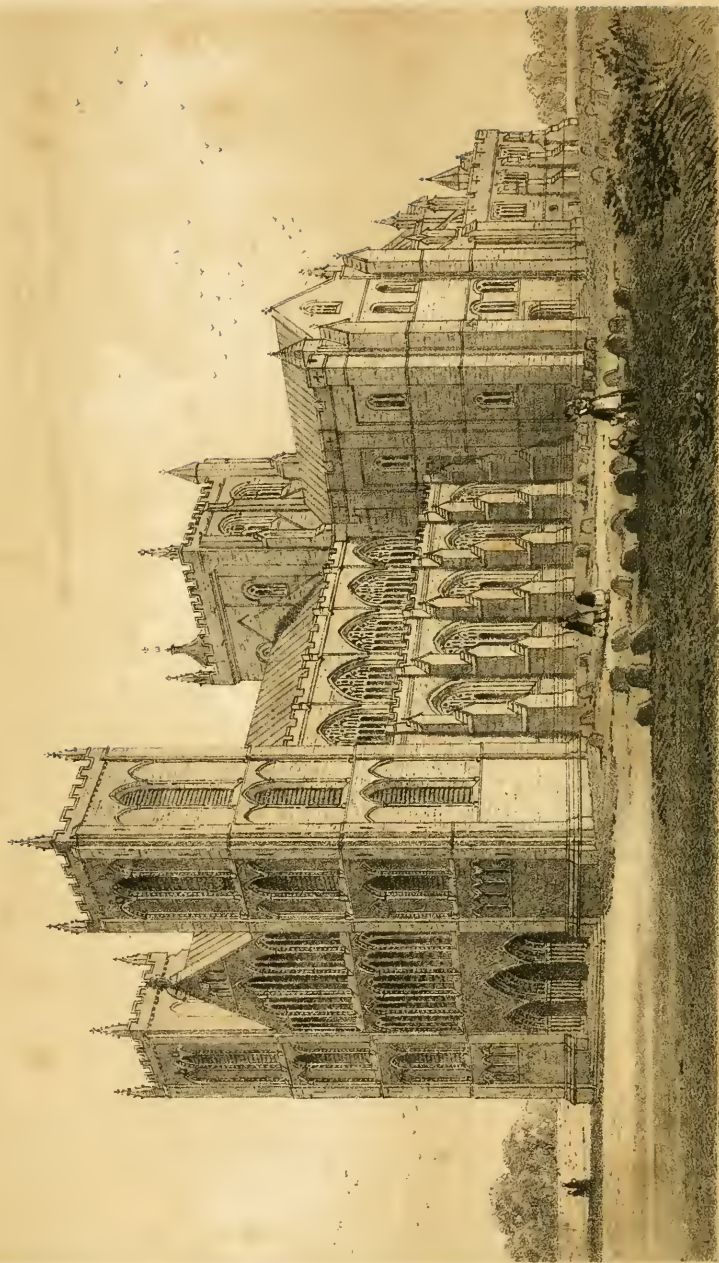


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A GUIDE

TO

RIPON, HARROGATE, FOUNTAINS ABBEY, BOLTON PRIORY,

AND

SEVERAL PLACES OF INTEREST IN THEIR VICINITY.

BY

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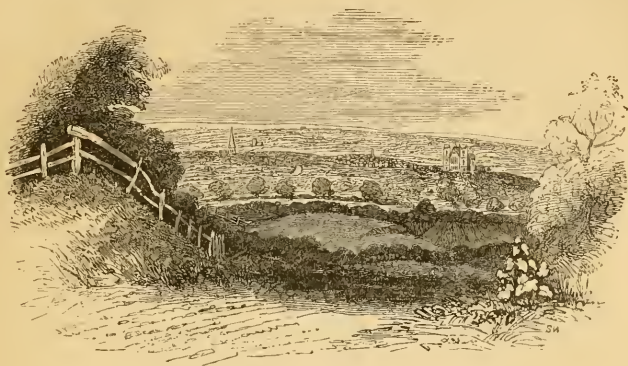
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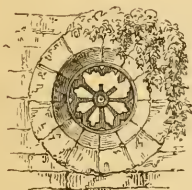
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RIPON, FROM THE STUDLEY LIMEKILNS.

RIPON.

HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION.



F all the divisions of our favoured island, the County of York has pre-eminent claims to the attention of that numerous class of the community who delight in reviewing the abundant beauties of their own insufficiently appreciated country. Comprising an area sufficient for a principality, meted by great natural features, containing the proudest memorials of ancient piety and chivalry, as well as the most diversified and ingenious applications of modern science, it is, in itself, an epitome of the kingdom, and needs not the aid of its peculiar natural beauties to allure those who are uncertain whither to direct their steps with the greatest certainty of enjoyment.

There is however, unfortunately, another class of persons who are tempted to this particular part of the kingdom, not so much from inclination as necessity. Its mineral springs and salubrious climate offer a most powerful remedial influence to those for whom restoration to health would be the greatest earthly blessing. And it is not

less singular than fortunate that the central portion of the county, which is thus chiefly resorted to, has, within the compass of moderate excursions, an unusual variety of most interesting objects, by the inspection of which the mind may be refreshed and engaged, whilst physical strength is invigorated or attained.

It is on this account that the vicinity of Ripon is particularly deserving of consideration to those who would thoroughly enjoy their visit to Harrogate. Situated on the immediate verge of that "Yorkshire plain," of which the competent judgment of Bancroft has affirmed the like is not to be seen on this side the Alps, yet elevated gently above commingling streams, on the last slope of the great western hills, its landscape scenery comprehends all those features on which a lover of the cultivated aspect of Nature loves to dwell,—pervaded everywhere by a feeling of order, tranquillity, and continuance, and enriched by those associations and memorials incident to a bye-past centre of progress and civilisation.

To the consideration of these monuments, and of the institutions which originated them, the greater part of the following pages will necessarily be devoted; and seldom may he who recognises, even in local history, "philosophy teaching by example," observe a more diversified series and intelligible development of those elements which have produced our present social and political condition.

As early, indeed, as shelter for himself and pasturage for his cattle were among the most pressing necessities of uncivilised man, it is evident that the advantageous position of this place would often induce its temporary occupation, and several conical pits on the "High Common" have been considered the site of these dwellings. Yet—even in this migratory and unsettled period—we have far more direct and conclusive evidence, that the immediate vicinity of Ripon was regarded with peculiar interest and veneration; since one of the tribes of the Brigantian Celts had chosen it as their station for the dispensation of justice and the celebration of religious rites; in fact, had made it the seat of their government. This position—novel as it may be—is, I believe, sufficiently proved by a remarkable earth-work on the high land near "Blows Hall," commanding extensive prospects up and down the Vale of Ure, as well as of the distant ranges of hills which form the side screens of the great Yorkshire plain. Like Abury and Stonehenge, which it rivals in antiquity, its outline is that of a circle, of which the diameter is not less than 680 feet; but no stones remain, nor indeed does that material seem to have been used in its formation. Though recent agricul-

tural operations have partially effaced the regularity and proportion of its plan, it is sufficiently evident that it was enclosed by a lofty mound and corresponding trench—the latter being inside, and a platform or space about thirty feet wide intervening. This opinion, however, may be reduced to certainty, by inspection of the three similar temples at Thornbrough, near Tanfield, about six miles hence, one of which remains perfect. At two opposite points, bearing nearly north and south, the mound and trench, for about the space of twenty-five feet, have been discontinued, in order to form an approach to the area of the temple. Outside the mound, also, are some slight vestiges of a further avenue, but too indefinite to be traced. But, however obscure the denotation of its several parts may have become, the antiquity and purpose of the place, as a temple for the performance of Druidical rites, is satisfactorily ascertained by the existence of at least eight large Celtic barrows in its immediate vicinity; one of which, being on the very ridge of the vale, and planted with fir trees, forms a conspicuous and useful object to guide a stranger to the site. Two of these barrows were opened five years ago, but I found nothing but a few calcined human bones, the ashes of the oaken funeral pile, and some fragments of flint arrow-heads, such as are still used by the North-American Indians. Several bronze spear-heads and celts have, however, been found in the neighbourhood, within recollection.

There is, unfortunately, no access to the earth-work by a public path; but its situation is rendered visible, from the high road leading from Ripon to Rainton, by the presence of two small pyramids or obelisks, built on the mound of the temple, about fifty years ago, in the place, it is said, of two similar erections, apparently of high antiquity.

It may not be unreasonable to believe, that a spring which rises in a piece of enclosed ground, called “Halikeld Field,” about midway between this earth-work and the village of Melmerby, was the “*fons sacer*” necessary for the due performance of Druidical rites; and, in the absence of all direct evidence, may, by its consequent pre-eminent sanctity, be supposed to have given a name, in Saxon times, to the Wapentake of Halikeld, in which both it and the earth-work are situated. “Hailekelde landes,” in Melmerby, are mentioned in charters of the thirteenth century.

Besides the remains of the temple, several evidences of the Celtic occupation of the immediate neighbourhood of Ripon have been found in the shape of celts, Druid beads, and fragments of coarse

pottery ware. The most interesting object, however, is a splendid golden torque, found about thirty years ago near Studley Hall, concealed between two large stones, which had probably once formed a portion of the substratum of a barrow. Within 640 yards of this place, and near some broken ground in Lindrick farm, was also found a large sword of bronze, which the discoverer—inheriting the spirit of the age when it had been fabricated—immediately threw away, lest, as he sagely averred, he might be bewitched by its possession.

The few opportunities that have favoured investigation of the soil have not presented proof that there was any considerable settlement, either on the site or in the immediate vicinity of Ripon, during the Roman period ; though its position, on a *lingula* of land declining between two converging rivers, and its proximity to their city of Isurium, may induce the idea that it was not entirely unoccupied by that people. Indeed, among the papers of the learned Gale, was the sketch of a tessellated pavement of that period, which was discovered here ; and a small vase of Roman workmanship—now in my possession—was found not many years ago at the depth of seven feet, on the west side of the “Horsefair.” But these indicia, with a few silver and copper coins, dating from the reign of Vespasian to that of Constantine, turned up in and near the streets, comprehend, at present, all the evidence I can offer on the subject. The great Roman road, which here retained its name of “Watling Strete” in the thirteenth century, passed the site of Ripon, at the distance of three miles, on the east ; and a vicinal way still called “Roman Rigg”—stretching towards the exploratory camp behind Hackfall—may be traced through Lindrick farm to the river Laver, at an equal distance on the west side of the city.

Descending now to the period when written evidence imparts the assurance of detail and dates to our narration, we find that, as early as the seventh century, the industry of Saxon agriculturists was rewarded here by the fertility of the Vale of Ure. Alchfrid, king of Deira, or the southern portion of the kingdom of Northumbria, was lord of the soil, and here, about the year 660, bestowed on Eata, abbot of Melrose, a portion of ground whereon to erect a monastic foundation.

It is probable, notwithstanding, that the village which consequently arose might have remained in the same insignificant condition which was the doom of many places where monasteries were founded in the Saxon times, if it had not happened that, on the

expulsion of the Scottish monks, king Alchfrid gave the monastery to one Wilfrid, a learned, enthusiastic, and pious character, who had been his tutor, and who ever after regarded the place with peculiar affection. With the monastery was bestowed the lands appurtenant to thirty, or, as some write, forty dwellings, being probably the whole adjacent territory which was then brought into cultivation. After Wilfrid was elevated to the see of York, he rebuilt this monastery with all the superior elegance and taste he had acquired during his sojourn in Italy and foreign lands, and by his patronage and exertions, unquestionably, the huts that had been reared round the oratory of the holy fathers became the centre of civilisation to the circumadjacent country, and the earliest germ of the future town.

The silence of the early chronicles allows us to hope that there was peace at Ripon during the warfare and brutal devastation that prevailed in the north during the eighth and ninth centuries. According, however, to some indefinite accounts, it shared this cruel fate towards the close of the latter period, for about the year 860, when the Danes were ravaging the country with insatiable fury, they are said to have razed the town to the ground, and done much injury to the monastery.

There remains, indeed, to our own day, a monument of some dreadful carnage that occurred here awhile after. This is a large conical tumulus at the east side of the town, about a bow shot from the cathedral, composed throughout of sand, gravel, and human bones, mingled in that indiscriminate manner that would occur when the victims of the battle-field were hastily collected in one vast mound that served alike as their memorial and their tomb. The teeth and bones of horses, too, have been found in quantities within a short distance around its base. This singular and mysterious object, which was called in Leland's time Ilshow, but now Ailey Hill, measures about three hundred yards in circumference at its base, and about seventy in sloping height. Etymologists have connected its name with a presumption that Ella, the Northumbrian king, fought, or was subsequently slain here in 867, and that he, or those who fell with him, were deposited in a how or hill that was designated by his name. The fact of his death having occurred here is, however, clearly disproved by several ancient chroniclers,* who state that he fell with king Osbert, at York; and the Saxon

* Chron. Sax. ed. Wheloc p. 532. Asserij Annales XV Scrip. 159.

personal appellation of Elsi harmonises better with the vulgar pronunciation, which has been immemorially "Ailey." Still its own internal evidence has proved that it was thrown up in, or very shortly after, Ella's time, for, in digging in the hill, which, until the late enclosure of the common where it stood, was used as a gravel pit, there was found, in the early part of 1695, several stycas of Osbert and Ella, Ethelred, Eanred, and Aelred. Within memory many have also been found in the hill; but, through ignorance of their value, have been all dispersed or lost.

Hitherto, the soil of Ripon may have been possessed by the successive monarchs of Northumbria, with the exception of what had been given by them to Wilfrid and his monastery; if the statement—believed as early as 1280*—is correct, that Athelstane, who reigned from 925 to 940, gave the *Manor* of Ripon to Wolstan, Archbishop of York. Yet little reliance can be placed on the mediæval interpretation of a Saxon grant, and the truth, as suggested both by the authentic portion of the charters of Athelstane, printed in the "Monasticon,"† as well as by the petition of Archbishop Bowet to Parliament, in 1415,‡ seems rather to be, that Athelstane, when he came with his army to Ripon, on his expedition against the Scots, vowed, that, if it should prove successful, he would endow the churches of York, Ripon, and Beverley, with profitable privileges; and that his grant consisted in the creation and conveyance of peculiar and exempt legal jurisdiction over those manorial and appurtenant lands already acquired by the see of York, and since comprehended in what is termed the franchise, or "Liberty of Ripon."

When king Edred proceeded to the north, to revenge the perfidy of the Northumbrians, about the year 948,§ he devastated and burned the town and monastery of Ripon, in consequence, as is supposed, of Archbishop Wolstan, its lord, being implicated in the rebellion. Odo, Archbishop of Canterbury, visited the province of York very soon after this devastation.|| He had pity, as Leland observes, ¶ on the desolation of Ripon monastery, and began, or caused a "new work to be edified wher the present minstre now is." Prosperity seems to have followed his exertions so effectually that after the lapse of a century, and in the reign of Edward the

* Placita de Quo Warr. R. C. p. 197.

† Mon. Angl. i. 172.

‡ Rot. Parl. vol. iv., p. 85.

§ A. D. 948, says Matt. Westm., p. 368; but A. D. 950, Sim. Dunelm., X Scrip. i., c. 166.

|| R. de Diceto. X Scrip. c. 455.

¶ Itin. i. 91.

Confessor, the manor had acquired the annual value of 32*l*. * Archbishop Aldred was then its lord. He was the last Archbishop of York under the Saxon dynasty, and crowned William the Conqueror.

It has been fortunate for the town that the Conqueror bestowed the manor on Aldred's successor, Thomas, † rather than on a layman, who might have neglected it, in consequence of its comparatively defenceless position. He had been a Canon of Bayeux, and having aided William with a large sum of money to prosecute his expedition, was thus rewarded with the primacy of York. During his time the town shared so severely in the devastation that succeeded the siege of York in 1069, that when Domesday survey was taken sixteen years after, the value of the manor was depreciated to 7*l*. 10*s*. ; and most of the appurtenant berewics were still desolate and waste. Under the fostering and powerful patronage of the Archbishops of York, with whom Ripon was a favourite residence ‡ until Walter Grey erected the palace at Thorp, the prosperity of the town increased apace. The death of Archbishop Thomas occurred here, Nov. 18th, 1100 ; § and Murdac retired hither, when at issue with his Chapter. The hosts of retainers and followers that these great dignitaries daily maintained, together with the influx of persons who attended the fairs they had been privileged to hold by kings Henry and Stephen, could not fail in that day, when commerce was confined to chartered localities, to confer lasting benefit on the town. The number of persons employed in the erection of the church, and the several ecclesiastical structures around, must, also, from the long period over which these works extended, have contributed to the same result. Before the close of the thirteenth century, and probably at a far earlier period, the manufacture of woollen cloth had been established in the town, which had arrived at such importance as to be deemed worthy of representation in parliament.

On the 3rd of October, 1295, ¶ it was summoned to send two members to a parliament, to be held at Westminster on the 13th of November following. It was summoned four times afterward, and until the 19th Edward II., when it ceased to send members, until the last parliament of Edward VI., ¶ from which period it has been summoned to the present time.

* Domesday Book. † Ibid. ‡ Stubbs, Act. Pont. Ebor. X Scrip. ii., c. 1709.

§ Bromton., X Scrip. ii. 801.

¶ Palgrave's Parl. Writs, i. 36, 85.

¶ Willis's Not. Parl., viii., p. 66-7.

About the year 1319, when the country was distracted by the contentions of the imbecile Edward and his barons, Robert Bruce seized on several of the towns and military stations of the north. He sacked and ravaged the Yorkshire towns of Northallerton, Boroughbridge, Skipton, and Scarborough, and having turned his army in this direction, remained at Ripon three days, where he imposed a tribute of one thousand marks on the terrified inhabitants, two hundred and forty of which they immediately paid, fearing lest he should put his threat of burning the town into execution.

The evil day was only protracted for a while ; for, after his pursuit of King Edward to York, his army again visited Ripon, when, finding the wretched inhabitants unable to comply with their demands, they perpetrated many brutal atrocities ; putting to death, among others, several ministers of the collegiate church, which, according to Walsingham, they endeavoured to destroy by fire.

Notwithstanding the calamity which had befallen the town, King Edward summoned a parliament to meet here on the 14th of November, 1322 ; but it did not assemble, being removed by writ of proclamation to York.

Though this incident may be indicative of the temporary mental elasticity of the inhabitants, yet the manufacture of woollen cloth, on which the staple and progressive character of the town depended, was, probably, never after prosecuted with its former success. Indeed the woollen trade, generally, was at this period in a very hopeless condition, and never revived, until Edward III. induced certain Flemish manufacturers to settle in England, one of whose establishments at York would, alone, interfere unfavourably with the more unskilful operations conducted here. Yet the resort of the country people to its fairs and markets, where, in the deficiency of shops, goods of all descriptions were sold, together with the presence and patronage of two great ecclesiastical establishments, must have maintained the town in a reputable commercial position.

During the remainder of the fourteenth century, nothing occurred of general interest in the annals of Ripon ; and through that which succeeded it, we would hope that the absence of striking incident is indicative of a state of peace and contentment ; escaping the vicissitudes and troubles to which it might have been exposed by the possession of a permanent fortification, and subjection to a military lord of the fee, during the desolating wars of York and Lancaster.

But whatever may have been the degree of vigour with which the staple manufacture was prosecuted here, during these periods, in the middle of the sixteenth century, when a new combination of the elements of social progress was evolved, it sensibly declined, and the trade was transferred to the more congenial site of Halifax. Leland, who was here about the year 1534, observed that "there hath bene, hard on the farther Ripe of Skelle, a great numbre of tenters for wollen clothes, wont to be made in the town of Ripon. But now idelnes is sore encresid in the town, and clothe makeing almost decayed."

The simultaneous dissolution of the religious houses interfered also unfavourably with the social comfort and temporal prosperity of the town; not only by diverting the proceeds of large and distant estates, which had been freely expended here, into absent or avaricious hands, but by exchanging the solace of ancient ties and associations for the poisonous infusion of theological strife; so that when a "great plague" visited Ripon, in 1546, the full measure of its affliction was filled up.

This state of derangement and discord continued with little abatement until the famous "Rising in the North," in 1569, when Richard Norton and Thomas Markenfield, the lords of domains hard by Ripon, that had bestowed on their race these ancient and chivalrous names, allowed the long suppressed bitterness of their religious discontent to plot and urge on that ill-starred expedition, in which the earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland were put forward as the ostensible leaders. The former of these noblemen had a seat at Topcliffe, seven miles from Ripon, where the rebels held their early meetings. They came here, on their road from Durham, on Friday, the 18th of November, 1569, and were here on the 19th, when many joined them. They had a muster at the Market-cross, and the earls made a proclamation, which Sir George Bowes, their adversary, describes as the most effectual thing they did. Here Norton displayed his memorable banner, and mass was celebrated in the collegiate church. After putting Sir William Ingilby, who had opposed them, to flight, they marched to Knaresborough; and at length to Clifford Moor, whence they injudiciously returned to the north; but the footmen risen in Ripon and the vicinity had seen enough of the campaign, and refused to pass their homes. On the night of the 16th of December, the lords Warwick and Clinton arrived at Ripon, in pursuit of the rebels; and in the next month a dreadful demonstration of their victorious arms was exhibited in

this place. As a significant and memorable warning, there was ordered to be executed here, all the rebel constables of the West-Riding, except those of Wetherby, Boroughbridge, and Tadcaster; all the offending serving-men of the West-Riding; and lastly, within sight of their neighbours, and home, and kindred, the misguided townsmen of Ripon.

Towards the close of the sixteenth century, there seems, also, to have prevailed much animosity and discord in the borough, chiefly caused by the uncertain mode of electing the chief officer, who was called "the Wakeman," and the irregular constitution of the municipal body; which, having existed—though, perhaps, originally as a Merchant Guild—apparently, from the Saxon times, became, in the absence of legally defined powers, a law unto itself, and therefore unable either to command respect, or to withstand that rising spirit of inductive argument which was not to be satisfied, merely with traditional authority. With the consent of Archbishop Hutton—Lord of the Manor and Liberty—whose predecessor, Cardinal Wolsey, had similarly interfered in 1517, a definite arrangement was attempted in 1598; and a code of By-laws framed for the general constitution of the body and government of the town. Much of the irregularity being "supposed a long time by y^e most p'te of y^e wisest and best accompt in and about y^e said Towne to have fallen out by reason of y^e confusion and y^e number of aldermen being never limited wth any certaine number," they were then reduced from twenty-nine to twelve. Twelve more were added not long after; but the system being still open to objection, the inhabitants, soon after the accession of king James, petitioned the monarch for a "more certain and undoubted mode of election."

This was granted to them, June 26th, 1604, in a Charter of Incorporation, obtained chiefly by the efforts of Mr. Hugh Ripley, a "merchant and mercer" of the town, who was Wakeman at that time, and was nominated by the Crown, as the first mayor.

In consequence of the plague raging at York in 1604, the Court of the Lord President of the North was adjourned to Ripon, where it was held a short time.

When King James I. was on his progress to Scotland in 1617, he honoured Ripon with a brief visit. He left York on Tuesday, August 15th, and came here that evening; when, as the official minute in the Corporation Register says, he lodged at "the house of Mr. George Dawson, and at his Highnes comynge to the said towne Mr. Thomas Proctor, Recorder of this corporation, made a speech

vnto his Ma^{tie}, w^{ch} done, there was presented unto his Highnes, by Mr. Symon Browne Maior, the Aldermen and Burgesses of the said Corporation, a gilte bowle and a pair of Rippon spurres, w^{ch} spurres coste v^{li} and were such a contentment to his Ma^{tie} as his Highnes did weare the same the day followynge at his dep^ture forth of the said towne."

The plague again visited Ripon in 1625, so severely, that the country people dreaded approaching the town, and their children were more than once baptised on the common pasture. From the commencement of its fatality on the 2nd of June, 1625, to its termination on the 4th of May, 1626, there died in all ninety-six persons, whose names and places of abode are entered separately in the Parish Register.

In the spring of the year 1632, Charles I. passed through Ripon on his way to Edinburgh, where he was crowned on the 18th of July following.

The untenable position of the town exempted it from sharing, severely, in the horrors of the Grand Rebellion. One of those wars of words that preceded that most dire explosion was, however, for a while, maintained here : for the Scottish lords having refused, in 1640, to treat, at York, with the English Commissioners, Ripon was the place agreed on for their meeting.

The house in which this extraordinary conference was held, together with the table and benches that remained in the apartment used by the Commissioners, are still remembered by several persons. The great interest that attached to the building could not preserve it from destruction. It was pulled down many years ago, and its site now forms part of Mr. Cayley's gardens, near Ailey Hill.

Another brief incident of this sad drama was enacted here, in March, 1642-3, when Sir Thomas Mauleverer entered the town with a detachment of the parliamentary forces. In the exercise of their usual blasphemy and licentiousness, they riotously and profanely intruded themselves into the Collegiate Church, and showed what kind of liberty they desired, and were worthy to enjoy, by breaking the painted windows, and defacing the memorials of the dead. "But," says Gent (writing about ninety years after, in his usual quaint style), "they were soon after attacked by a detachment of Royallists from Skipton Castle, then governed by that glorious sufferer for his loyalty, Sir John Mallory, of Studley Royal, assisted by several Rippon champions, whose duty and allegiance were unalterable ; who, coming upon the rebels by surprise, in the Market-

place, where they had kept their main guard, made them feel the sharpness of their swords, by a better fate than they deserved." Some were taken prisoners, and sent "to Skipton and other places."

But the energies of many "glorious sufferers for loyalty" could not quench that fierce blaze that was so soon to scathe the land. In the very streets where the "Rippon champions" had enjoyed their little triumph, they soon after beheld their unfortunate and misguided king a captive in the hands of his subjects. On his way from Newcastle to Holmby, he came here on the 6th of February, 1646, having then left Richmond; and remained until the 8th, when he was conveyed to Wakefield. He was attended by a strong guard of horse and foot, and it is remarkable that Ripon was the only place of the ten stages where he was allowed to remain two nights.

The ascendancy of the Parliament affected materially the institutions of the town, which were all in antagonism with the popular feeling. The Manorial rights were seized, and sold to Lord Fairfax in 1647. The lands appurtenant to the Royalty were alienated between that year and 1650. The Chapter of the Cathedral was suppressed; and many members of the Corporation became so insensible to the welfare of their country and their town, as to advocate the principles of puritanical dissent and licentious insubordination.

When order was restored by the accession of King Charles II., the Corporations were purged of their unworthy members; and a Commission for that purpose sat here, the 23rd of September, 1662. The vacancies were supplied by persons of great respectability, who did all that corporate influence could effect for the advancement of the town. For some time they directed their attention to the renewal of their charter, and the grant of two fairs for cattle and horses, that they deemed would be beneficial to the inhabitants. Nothing, however, was effected until the accession of James II., when, after a consultation with the Archbishop of York, they surrendered their charter, September 2nd, 1684, to the King, who was pleased to restore it, with another from himself, dated 12th January, 1686, confirming all the privileges of the Corporation, and conceding the fairs they desired.

From the close of the seventeenth century, the history of the town becomes devoid of general interest. It had its own little squabbles about the Pretender and the Pope; but, basking in the

sunshine of agricultural prosperity, and restrained by the influence of a wealthy and benevolent family, in one bond of political feeling that taught "Whatever is, is right," there was generated a disbelief in the possibility of change, that has too often been ruthlessly dispelled, in the great social and commercial struggles which have ensued.

During the last twenty years, the ancient institutions of the town—and, especially, from that exclusive character in which their original efficacy existed—have been despoiled in silent antagonism with those measures by which legislators have attempted to redirect their operation, in a changed condition of society. The special privilege of the burgage holders to elect the members of Parliament was taken away by the Reform Bill. The numerical as well as the administrative power of the Corporation was reduced, by the general statute of 1835. The manorial jurisdiction of the Archbishop of York has been abridged, his Court of Pleas all but absorbed in the County Court, and his once lucrative franchise of fairs and markets infringed even within the parish. The constitution of the Chapter of the Cathedral has been remodelled; and, lastly, the mercantile competition of other and distant places is encouraged, by the formation of a railway to the city.

The last, however, is the only change which may, ultimately, affect the prosperity or settled condition of the place. Although, of course, it was expected to work—here as elsewhere—such an hopeful effect as no man would limit even in imagination; it may be as probable that, with no peculiar advantage of mineral wealth, nor of position, except an unlimited water power, Ripon will not escape that dominant commercial influence which has risen on the ruin of local immunities and associations; but that henceforth it will be exclusively sought and enjoyed by those who would retire from successful contention with the world.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.



IRCUMSCRIBING the city is a district—comprehending 33,330 acres and twenty-four townships—in which, from the time of the Saxon king Athelstane, the Archbishop of York, in right of his manor, has exercised an exclusive franchise or jurisdiction, immemorially known by the name of “the Liberty of Ripon,” and, occasionally, by that of “Riponshire.” Its outline—which has diverted the boundary of the West Riding from its natural and general direction with the river Ure,—agrees, as might have been supposed, nearly with that of the parish; but several townships which are included, geographically, in the parochial, are without the civil district; in consequence, I presume, of their ancient feudal dependence on the barony and castle of Kirkby Malzeard. It comprehends also the adjacent parish of Nidd.

Within this district, until successive restrictions of the legislature, the Archbishop enjoyed those extraordinary privileges termed, legally, “*Jura Regalia*,” the nature of which cannot be detailed here. Suffice it to say, that by the exclusion of the High Sheriff, he had unlimited judicial authority, both over the property and the lives of the residents, the one branch remaining in the Court of Pleas, the other represented, in an abridged form, by the Court of Quarter Sessions. The “Liberty” also maintains its exempt character, in its offices of High Steward, Justices of the Peace, Coroner, Clerk of the Peace, Chief Constable, and Gaoler.

The incorporation of the borough has been already alluded to, as well as that reformation in 1835, by which it has obtained neither an accession of influence nor energy, but an additional element of excitement and contention, and the burthensome administration of formal provisions, unnecessary to the welfare or government of a small community. The body now consists of a Mayor, four Aldermen, and twelve Councillors. The Mayor and his predecessor are Justices of the Peace for the Borough; and the Mayor is also in the commission for the Liberty of Ripon, during his year of office.

If a visitor should remain in the city during the evening, he may

hear the sounding of the Mayor's horn, one of the most ancient customs that lingers in the kingdom. It formerly announced the setting of the watch, whence the chief officer of the town derived his Saxon style of "Wakeman," but has, of course, now lapsed into a formality. Three blasts, long, dull, and dire, are given at nine o'clock at the Mayor's door, by his official Horn-blower, and one afterwards at the market-cross, while the seventh bell of the cathedral is ringing. It was ordained in 1598 that it should be blown, according to ancient custom, at the *four corners* of the cross, at nine o'clock; after which time, if any house "on the gate syd within the towne" was robbed, the Wakeman was bound to compensate the loss, if it was proved that he "and his servants did not their duetie at y^e time." To maintain this watch he received from every householder in the town that had but one door, the annual tax of twopence; but from the owner "of a gate door, and a backe dore iiij by the year, of dutie." The original horn, worn by the Wakeman, decorated with silver badges and the insignia of the trading companies of the town, but shamefully pillaged in 1686,, has been several times adorned, especially by John Aislaby, Esq. Mayor in 1702. Since the year 1607 it has been worn on certain days by the Mayor's Serjeant, in procession.

The other corporate bodies and institutions in the city may, most conveniently, be noticed in surveying the places where they are held or administered.

COMMERCIAL POSITION.

THERE is no staple manufacture carried on in the city, unless the establishment of three individuals may be allowed to represent the trade of saddle-tree making, carried on here as early as the time of Queen Elizabeth. After the manufacture of woollen cloth declined, in the sixteenth century, that of spurs was carried on with such skill and success that the phrase "As true steel as Ripon rowels"—applied to express the character of a man of honest principles—became proverbial throughout the kingdom. Ben Jonson, in his "Staple of Newes," has;—

"Why, there's an angel, if my spurs
Be not right Rippon."

and Davenant, in his "Wits,"—

"Whip me with wire, beaded with rowels of
Sharp Rippon spurs."

This trade, together with that of button-making, and some other kinds of hardware, prospered throughout the seventeenth and part of the eighteenth century, but the advantages obtained, in the great seats of general hardware manufacture, by the division of labour and a more liberal application of capital, at length caused its decline, Alderman John Terry, who occupied the site of the second house westward from the Town-hall, and died within recollection, having been the last spurrier. Subsequently, no kind of manufacture has been peculiarly followed in the city, though well directed and persevering individual exertion, in several branches of trade and manufacture, has been successfully rewarded.

The weekly market is held on Thursday, and is well supplied with all kinds of agricultural produce of superior quality, large quantities of butter, eggs, and fowls, being particularly required by agents from the manufacturing districts. There is a supplementary market on Saturday evening, for the sale of garden produce and butcher's meat; and a wool market, held in the "Old Market-place," occasionally during the season.

There are fairs here, also, on the first Thursday after the 20th day succeeding old Christmas day; on the 13th and 14th of May; on the first Thursday and Friday in June; on the first Thursday in November; and on the 23rd of November, which is a general hiring day for servants. A most graphic idea of the scenes enacted, occasionally, at the mediæval fairs here, may be gathered from an interesting narrative, recently published in "the Plumpton Correspondence."

From a very early period—doubtless far more remote than the thirteenth century, when there is record of the fact—Ripon seems to have been a noted place for horse-fairs, and the most spacious street in it is still called "the Horsefair," though it is now used rather for the periodical exhibition than the sale of horses. It also promoted, at a comparatively early period, the breeding of horses, by the establishment of races, a course being formed, on the High Common, in 1713, at the expense of the Corporation. During the time of the Aislabies, they were well encouraged; but subsequently fell off considerably in character, and finally were abandoned on the enclosure of the common in 1826. With a view chiefly to afford amusement at the annual feast of St. Wilfrid in August, they were

re-established, on a new course on the opposite side of the river, in 1837, and have since been continued, with increasing prospect of success.

TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY.

THE general position of the city is sufficiently indicated by the map, and the vignette at the head of our first chapter, showing its bearing with reference to the vale of Ure, and the great Yorkshire plain beyond. It will be sufficient, therefore, now, to say that Ripon stands, chiefly, on a sheltered situation, declining from the north-west towards the confluence of the river Ure with the Laver and the Skell. The geological stratification, in its immediate vicinity, is of the Tertiary character, the city standing on the boundary between the new red-sandstone of the Yorkshire Plain, which shows itself prominently in a quarry beyond the railway station, and its great western terrace of magnesian limestone, which appears on the opposite side of the valley at Studley, Whitcliff, Morkershaw, and especially at Quarry Moor, where extensive lime-kilns have long been established. The soil, occasionally affording useful beds of clay, is generally of a gravelly nature, though there is much fertile land around the city, and trees show their satisfaction in its quality, both in their unusual size and exuberant foliage.

The antiquary Leland, who was here in the time of king Henry VIII., observed, and appearances still confirm his position, that "the olde Towne of Ripon stooode much by North and Est" as he "could gather by veuing of it." Stammergate and Allhallowgate, from their proximity to the Monastery that was the germ of the town, were therefore indubitably the most ancient portion of it, and from them the dwellings diverged, until the Market-place and its western and southern adjacencies were formed, before the sixteenth century. These later parts, in Leland's day, were "the best of the toune;" and he remarks, too, what few could have otherwise imagined, that "the very place wher the Market stede and Hart of the Towne is, was sumtyme caulled holly hille, of holy trees ther growing, wherby it apperith that this parte of the Towne is of a newer Buyldynge."

The plan and prospect of Ripon, recorded upwards of a hundred years ago, in the several works of Gent and Buck, exhibit much the

same appearances as remained until the beginning of the present century, since which time many improvements have been effected by paving, flagging, and draining streets; the enclosing of the adjacent common lands; the rebuilding of many old, humble, and inconvenient houses; and the erection and embellishment of new ones, especially in the immediate environs. The era of reconstruction preceding the present appears to have been during the seventeenth century; but the outline of the picturesque gable, that was so charming a feature in our old street architecture, is still unwittingly retained in many of the modern erections. Most of these fronts were but formed of timber frames, covered with lath and plaster—each story projecting over that below. One by one, they have been gradually superseded by more convenient arrangements, and substantial materials; and, I believe, an ancient hostelry, in the north-west corner of the Market-place, remains now the least mutilated example.

Most of the streets are narrow, like those of other ancient towns, where, originally, little more was required than passage for man and horse. The chief Market-place is very spacious, and nearly square, measuring at the widest points 115 yards by 81. It is adorned by a handsome Cross 90ft. high, erected in 1781, by William Aislabie, Esq., of Studley, who represented the borough in Parliament sixty years: and an elegant TOWN-HALL, of which more will be said hereafter.

“THE OLD ABBAY OF RIPON.”

WE have already noticed that Eata, abbot of Melrose, obtained, about the year 660, certain lands in Ripon, from Alchfrid, king of Deira, whereon to construct and maintain a monastic establishment. The monks, however, had scarcely erected their humble dwelling, before Alchfrid was dissatisfied with their discipline, particularly their mode of computing the time of Easter. Having the option, therefore, given, either to quit the place, or to conform to his wishes, they chose the more independent alternative, and departed.*

On this untoward circumstance, which occurred before 664, King

* Eddij. Vit. Wilfridi, c. viii. Bedæ Hist. Eccl., L. v., c. 20, and L. iii., c. 25.

Alchfrid bestowed the monastery, and the lands appurtenant to thirty dwellings, on one Wilfrid, whose learning and piety had captivated the monarch and his court ; and who henceforth fills an important page, not merely of the annals of the town, but of the whole Christian church.

The intercourse of this monarch with Wilfrid, and the peculiar tendency of his own mind to adopt the ceremonial practices of the Church of Rome, in several matters that agitated the clergy of this island, inclined him to join his father in holding a synod, which might furnish grounds for regulating the ecclesiastical practice of Northumbria in these particulars. This assembly met at Whitby in 664, King Oswi himself being present, who, although educated in the Scottish discipline, pronounced now in favour of the Church of Rome.

The Bishoprick of York or Northumbria being soon after vacant, Wilfrid, who had shown much zeal and ability in supporting the Romish cause at the Synod, was elected to that important office.

Soon after his elevation, he began to realise those principles of architecture, he had acquired in his continental tours, in the improvement of his Cathedral church at York ; and, immediately after, it would seem, from the consecutive narrative of his Chaplain,* determined to erect a new monastery at Ripon. Of what form and extent the old Abbey had been, is of course unknown. Its site, occupying upwards of two acres and a half, is still circumscribed, I presume, by a portion of Stammergeat, Priest-lane, and a nameless road on the south ; and has immemorially been called " Scots' Monument Yard." The buildings were undoubtedly of wood—judging alike from the fashion of the Scots,† and the ability of the times. The raised platform by the poplar trees seems composed of gravel, but there are foundations diverging from it that have disclosed large stones. Several Saxon stycas, of the Northumbrian king Ethelred, have been dug up in this field ; and a portion of a cylindrical column of grit-stone 4ft. 5in. in circumference. This might, however, have formed part of some subsequent oratory.

Wilfrid, from some cause now unintelligible, chose the site of his new foundation about 200 yards from the old building ; and on the western side of what is now the public street ; but we have, unfortunately, no more definite idea of its design and magnitude, than is suggested in the observation of his chaplain Eddi, that it was

* Eddij. Vita Wilfridi, c. xvii.

† Bedæ Hist. Eccl., L. iii., c. xxiv.

built of wrought or polished stone, and that divers columns and porticos entered into its construction. William of Malmesbury, however, amid the more magnificent erections of after ages, records its curious arches, fine pavements, and winding recesses. Yet these particulars, combined with the fact that Wilfrid brought workmen from Italy who wrought in the Roman manner, and guided by the description Richard, Prior of Hexham, gives of that church, which was built by Wilfrid in 674, will afford us a tolerable idea of the celebrated Monastery of Ripon.

The foundation of this structure seems to have occurred between the first regnal year of King Egfrid, who was present at its consecration, and 678, when that monarch, by the advice of his wife, persuaded Theodore, Archbishop of Canterbury, to depose Wilfrid, who then departed to Rome to receive justice from the Pope. Theodore substituted two bishops in his stead—Bosa having his see at York, and Eata at Hexham or Lindisfarne. At the same time he ordained, at York, Eadhead, Bishop of Sidnacester; and three years after Wilfrid's departure, placed Trumbert over the church of Hexham, and Tromwine over the province of the Picts*—Eata being removed to Lindisfarne.

Still deeming that a more minute supervision was required, the Church of Ripon was constituted an Episcopal See, and Eadhead, who had returned from Sidnacester, was appointed its Bishop.†

From the continual aim and endeavour of Wilfrid to subject the Saxon kings to the papal influence, he was allowed but brief and occasional enjoyment of his monastery here; yet he outlived or wearied out his most pertinacious adversaries, and, after the synod of Nidd, was allowed to retire here in peace. Shortly after, on a journey, he was taken ill at the Abbey of Oundle in Northamptonshire, where he died on the 12th of October, 711, in the seventy-sixth year of his age; but in obedience to his own particular request, his body was brought to Ripon for interment, where it was deposited on the south side of the altar of his conventual church.

King Athelstane, as I have previously observed, granted certain valuable immunities to the Monastery of Ripon; the particulars of which are defined in two charters of that monarch, printed in the Monasticon. I presume, however, that both these documents were

* Bedæ Hist. Eccl., L. iv., c. 12, Wheloc, 291.

† Ibid.—“*Rhipensi Ecclesiæ præfecit.*” Ibid. L. iii., c. 28—“*Hrypensis Ecclesiæ præsul factus est.*”

fabrications of much later days,* and framed more in the nature of an *inspeximus*, than that of an original grant, particularly the one in prose, which is witnessed by "G," or Geoffrey, Archbishop of York,† and natural son of King Henry II. By the rhyming charter, which is a curious specimen of English verse, as written at the end of the thirteenth century, the valuable privilege of Sanctuary was conceded to the church, together with the ordeal of fire and water; freedom from tax and tribute; and other immunities.

The boundary of this place of refuge was marked, at the end of the thirteenth century, by *eight* crosses circumvallating the church, and called mile crosses; where, at that period, the Archbishop of York claimed that his bailiffs had the right to meet the homicide, who should flee thither; and, after administering to him the necessary oath, admit him within the privileged jurisdiction. The position of three are only now distinguished. Athelstane's cross was situate on the road between Ripon and Nunwick, by a field still called Athelstane-close. The stump of Archangel cross was lately sunk in the hedge of a lane leading from the Navigation bridge to Bondgate; and Sharow cross still remains entire in the highway from Ripon to that village. Another nameless cross formerly stood on the further side of Bishopton toll-gate; but whether one of this series I cannot at present ascertain. The Grithstool that stood in the church, and conferred the last degree of security on its occupant, is now destroyed, and I am unable to say in what part of the choir it stood.

The monastery had no sooner received these valuable immunities than it was doomed to irretrievable destruction; for in 948 or 950, when King Edred devastated the North, it was destroyed by fire and rendered no longer tenable.

* Mon. Angl., V. i, p. 172.

† Camden's Remains, p. 198

“ THE CHAPELLE OF OUR LADY. ’

YET the ruin of the “ Old Abbay of Ripon ” was not entirely abandoned to desolation. A chapel was founded there, no doubt, within the walls of some portion that was left undisturbed—for the ravages of Edred could scarcely have extended to the shell of the building—and Leland has left us the following circumstantial account of what otherwise would have perished irretrievably.

“ The Old Abbay of Ripon,” says he, “ stode wher now is a Chapelle of our Lady, in a Botom one close distant by * * * * from the new minstre.

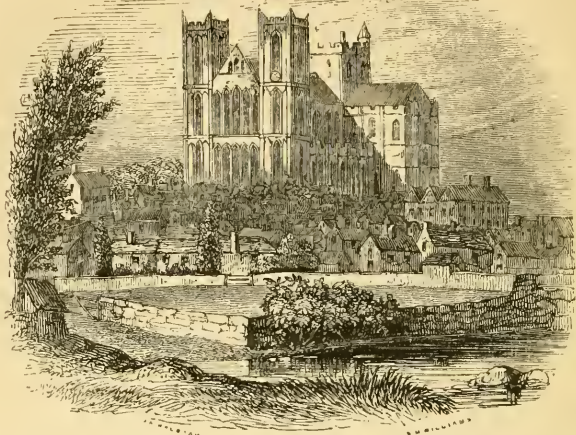
“ One Marmaduke, Abbate of Fountaines, a man familiar with Salvage, Archebishop of York, (1501-7) obtained this Chapelle of hym, and Prebendaries of Ripon : and having it gyven onto hym and to his Abbay, *pullid down the est end of it, a pece of exceding auncient Wark*, and buildid a fair pece of new Werk with squarid stones for it, *leving the west ende of very old werk stonding*.

“ He began also and finishid a very fair high waul of Squarid ston at the est end of the Garth that this chapel stondeth yn : *and had thought to have inclosyd the hole garth with a lyke waulle, and to have made there a cell of white monks*. There lyethe one of the Englebys in the est end of this chapell, and there lyith another of them yn the chapelle garthe, and in the chapel singith a cantuarie prest.

“ One thing I much notid, that was 3 crossis standing in row at the Este Ende of the Chapelle Garth. *They were things antiquissimi operis*, and monumentes of some notable men buried there, so that of al the old monasterie of Ripon and the toun, I saw no likely tokens left after the depopulation of the Danes in that place, *but only the Waulles of our Lady chapelle and the crossis*.”

The indefatigable antiquary was, no doubt, correct in his supposition ; and little did he imagine, as he viewed the venerable remains that would have thrown a most vivid light on the interesting subject of Saxon architecture, could we now see them as he

did, that in a few years, the "fair pece of new werk, and the pece of exceding auncient wark," would be involved in one common ruin. The foundation having been suppressed in 1547, the fabric became, no doubt, a quarry for all who were wicked enough to remove "the remnants of the shattered pile;" though, I am afraid, the hands of false friends contributed not a little to its demolition. There is now nothing above ground to mark the site. Abbot Huby's wall, which merits Leland's encomium of a fair piece of work, remains, enclosing the "Chapelle garth," which forms part of the Deanery garden and paddock. I have reason to believe the foundations and outline of the Saxon Monastery might still be traced, and such an operation on a building, whose pre-eminent antiquity is so well ascertained, could not fail to be deeply interesting. Nothing of any importance has been found within memory, except a few small and curious tesserae of the floor, that were turned up in 1837.



THE CATHEDRAL, FROM THE BANKS OF THE SKELL.

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PETER AND ST. WILFRID.



NOT long after the destruction of Wilfrid's Monastery, Leland informs us it was "the commune opinion" in his day, that "Odo, Archbishop of Cantewarbyri, (Canterbury) cumming ynto the Northe partes with King . . . (Edred ?) had pitie on the desolation of Ripon Chirch, and began, or causid a new work to be edified wher the Minstre now is ;" but that no part of this structure then remained. Odo himself, in his preface to Frithgode's Metrical Life of Wilfrid, also informs us that, on visiting the old Monastery, he found the grave of Wilfrid in a state of scandalous and indecent neglect ; and removed his bones to a proper receptacle in his Metropolitan Church. This statement has, nevertheless, been questioned.

If the Benedictine monks obtained the benefit of the new erection, they did not retain it long. Between 1060 and 1069 Aldred,

Archbishop of York, and Lord of the manor, had founded certain Prebends in the church, either in addition to a previous number, or as an original endowment, and these Canons of St. Wilfrid were in the enjoyment of their privileges when the Domesday survey was made.

In the beginning of the century succeeding the Norman Conquest, Archbishop Thurstan gave to the "church of St. Wilfrid" one carucate of land, "in dedicatione," and also two oxgangs of land in Sharow, for the foundation of a prebend that has since borne that name. An erroneous interpretation of the intent of the former donation has induced the general statement, most prominently developed in the seventeenth volume of the *Archæologia*, that Thurstan *built* the Collegiate Church of Ripon; and that, except the additions and alterations in the Decorated and Perpendicular style, it remains a monument of his genius and liberality to this day.

This noble work, I have, however, had the pleasure to ascertain, is another of the many benefits which the See of York derived from the Pontificate of the wealthy and talented Roger of Bishopbridge, who held it from 1154 to 1181; for the chroniclers have recorded comparatively nothing of one whose generosity and piety, in raising the ancient choir of York Cathedral, and the adjacent Collegiate Chapel of St. Sepulchre, will now acquire, at the distance of nearly seven centuries, the honour of another most important work. It was fortunate, therefore, that in this instance he had evaded their neglect; and, in a record which he caused to be prepared, has himself notified—"quod dedimus operi beati Wilfridi de Ripon ad ædificandam basilicam ipsius quam *de novo inchoavimus* mille libras veteris monetæ." With this treasure a noble pile was begun, as is still evident in those members of it which remain in the transepts, and north-west portions of the choir.

We are not informed how much of the structure was perfected before the Archbishop's decease, though the state of the nave at that period seems only doubtful. After the plan, originally devised by Roger, was completed, the elegant taste and ample resources of some unknown benefactor, dissatisfied with the tall nave, terminating abruptly without aisles on the west, renewed that front in the lancet style, and produced a noble and imposing façade, by the addition of a tower on each side, adorned with lofty spires of timber and lead. The centre tower had, perhaps, been originally adorned by a similar termination, though of much less altitude.

It was, I apprehend, in furtherance of this work, that Archbishop

Wickwane in 1284, and Archbishop Romaine in 1287, had issued their letters of indulgence for forty days to those who should contribute to the works of this church.

Thus efficiently completed, the church remained in beauty and strength until the inroad of the Scots, in 1319, when they set fire to the building, and destroyed some of its inmates.

At this time William de Melton, who had endeavoured to repulse the Scots, held the Archiepiscopal staff with a firm and apostolic hand. His generosity and efficient patronage of architectural science confirms the statement that he applied himself to the reparation of the misfortune, and the eastern portion of the choir is pointed to as his work.

Though the injuries caused by the Scots had not probably extended beyond the Roof, Screens, Stalls, and other inflammable portions of the building, the work of renovation and amplification proceeded slowly. We do not learn how the valiant Archbishop Zouch, who resided awhile at his palace here, encouraged his Canons in the undertaking; but immediately after the appointment of the great Thoresby to the Archiepiscopal chair, he issued, 26th October, 1354, his Letters of Request to Thomas Button and others, to collect the charitable alms of all faithful and well disposed persons within the diocese of York, to the use of the fabric of this Church, and, with the money thus obtained, the work was no doubt completed.

A century had but just elapsed before the Canons were again called upon to repel the attacks of an enemy more insidious and irresistible than the violence of man. The Lantern Tower, "which at first was so sumptuously built, was then, as well by neglect of workmen that first made it, as by thunder, and frequent storms and tempests, so much shaken and broken that the greatest part thereof was already fallen, and the rest expected to follow, if no speedy remedy was applied." The fabric fund being unable to meet the emergency, William Booth, Archbishop of York, was moved, on the 4th of February, 1459, 37 Henry VI., to grant an indulgence of forty days pardon to all such as should afford their charitable relief towards the re-edification, construction, and sustentation of the said steeple.

The rebuilding of the steeple was not fully accomplished. The south and east sides, that called for immediate restoration, were rebuilt after a noble and elegant design; and a preparation, that now disfigures the interior of the nave, denotes that the rest was

intended to be removed ; but the east wall of the transept, and the southern portion of the choir contiguous to the vitiated angle of the tower, seem to have demanded such immediate attention, that I presume it was deemed more advisable to expend the funds in their reconstruction, than in the completion of the tower. The arms of the See of York, Fountains Abbey, the families of Pigot of Clothierholme, and Norton of Norton, that adorned the late wooden ceiling of the south transept, showed who were the chief contributors to this work. The masses of masonry that had been projected from the tower, had, it is probable, so mutilated the rood-screen and the wooden lattices of the choir, with their contiguous stalls, that a new series of stalls was begun in 1489, and completed in 1494, about which period the rood-screen and sedilia were erected. The lady-loft likewise was built before 1482.

Having thus vigorously "set their hand to the plough," our Canons proceeded with that enthusiasm and lofty unity of purpose that actuated, so triumphantly, the architectural works of those earlier days, and next turned their attention to the ruined condition of the nave. Its monotonous length, inaccordant with the aisled amplitude of the rest of the structure, probably suggested its removal, in preference to its restoration ; and it must be allowed that he who was selected to prepare the new design, wrought with no ordinary or unskilful hand.

The precise time when the work was commenced, is at present unknown. The arms of Pigot of Clothierholme, in conjunction with those of the town, on the lower portion of one of the pillars, has been supposed to indicate that this part was erected while Randolph Pigot was Wakeman, in 1471 ; but this is doubtful authority. A local Chronicle, written in 1615, says that, "On the 6th day of Februarie, 1502, did the Chapter of the Church of Rippon make ordinances & statutes for the repaire & Re-edifying of the same *beinge at that tyme in great decaye & Ruine*;" and the arms of Savage, Archbishop of York, and those of his successor, Baynbridge, as a Cardinal, are good evidence that an interval of at least nine years elapsed before its completion. Leland, who was at Ripon about 1534, observed "the body of the Church of *late dayes*, made of a great widnesse by the Treasour of the Church and the Gentilmen of the Cuntury."

Even when an unprophetic eye might note the surging clouds of an impending and most fearful reformation, the Chapter once more met under the presidency of the rich and learned Bradley, late

Abbot of Fountains, and Suffragan Bishop of Hull, to deliberate on the renovation of a pile in which they could not reasonably predict that their imposing rites and ceremonies could be celebrated long. On Sunday, the 31st of October, 1546, they set apart a certain portion of their revenue to repair the belfry and wall of the north aisle,* which threatened to fall ; but before their plan could be brought into operation, the structure had passed into ruthless and unfriendly hands.

After the dissolution of the Collegiate Church, with its Chantries, by virtue of the statute of 1 Edward VI., their possessions were leased out by the Crown, and but the pittance of a few pounds reserved to the minister who was appointed to conduct the parochial services. Archbishop Sandys, aided by the influence of the great Burghley, and the Lords Huntingdon and Sheffield, endeavoured to obtain from Queen Elizabeth an endowment equal at least to the dignity of an extensive and populous parish ; but “ they never obtained anything but fair, unperformed promises.”

In the awful state of spiritual destitution which then prevailed, not only here, but generally in the North, the establishment of “ An Ecclesiastical College ” at Ripon was proposed in 1596,—as well to supply the parochial cure of souls, as to maintain the Protestant faith by the creation of a learned and intelligent ministry. The list of patrons contained the names of many persons of rank and learning, including Dean Nowell and Hooker, and improveable funds were provided ; yet neither then, nor in 1604, when the burgesses influenced Anne of Denmark in its favour, could the project be carried into effect, although there is evidence that the building was in a state of preparation, and other arrangements made for the reception of students.

The necessity of the case, however, was so far locally recognised, that on the 2nd of August, 1604, King James constituted the late dissolved Collegiate Church of Austin Canons a Collegiate Church, to consist of a Dean and six Prebendaries for ever, and granted to them many of the ample sources of revenue which the old foundation had received from the piety and charity of numerous benefactors. In consequence of arrangements which need not be detailed, the Dean and Chapter surrendered the said revenues by deed enrolled 8th of June, 1608, to the King, who, by charter dated the same day,

* This must apply to the choir, the nave being but just rebuilt. The words of the act of Chapter are “ Sunt nonnulli defectus et Ruinositat' aperte tam Campanillis quam muri lapidis insulæ borealis ejusd'm Eccl'ie qui irrumpunt'r,” &c. Yet the choir exhibits no particular work of that date, and is still in no danger.

constituted the office of Sub-dean, and granted to them, with their ancient Canon Fee Court and many other privileges, the source of revenue they have since enjoyed.

The architectural history of the structure since the Reformation may be briefly narrated. Alderman Theakstone's MS. Chronicle, written in 1615, says, on the 5th of May, 1593, "was the greates speare of Sainct Wilfray steeple in Rippon sett on fire by lighteninge about thre of the clocke in the morning, and by God's ayde, & helpe of the Towne's men, it was quinsched before seaven of the Clocke in ye morninge." From intentions more commendable for their reverence for antiquity, than prudence for the safety of the fabric, the shattered "speare" was allowed to remain until the 8th of December, 1660, when, "by reason of a violent storm of winde, the great steeple (by which the brief I quote designates the spire), was blown down," and demolished the roof of the chancel, "which was the only part where the people could assemble for the duties of public worship." "The body, likewise, of the said church, which was before very ruinous, being, by the fall of the said steeple, sorely shaken and much weakened, insomuch as the charge for the more necessary repair of the said church, *without* rebuilding the steeple," was supposed to amount to 6000*l.*, the inhabitants obtained the King's letters patent, enabling the Mayor of Ripon, with the Dean and other Commissioners, to receive the contributions of those who should wish to contribute to the good work—pertinently reminding them that "the Lord loveth the gates of Sion more than all the dwellings of Jacob."

The people responded liberally to the royal exhortation; but, in consequence of the embezzlement of a great portion of the contributions, little more was accomplished than the imperative restoration of the choir roof, and the woodwork it had crushed in its descent. In 1664 the spires of the western towers were removed to obviate the recurrence of another catastrophe.

From this period, though the Chapter paid all the attention which their funds would allow to the immediate requirements of the fabric, the hand of time was effectually performing its insidious and lamentable work, until the appointment of Dr. Webber to the Deanery, in 1829, when it was found that serious and most extensive renovation was required in all portions of the building. Mr. Blore having reported that 3096*l.* would be required to effect an efficient and substantial repair, and 2785*l.* more "to give to the interior a uniform and consistent character," the Chapter, according to ancient precedent, publicly stated the urgency of the case to their parishioners

and friends, who provided funds which ultimately amounted to upwards of 3000*l*.

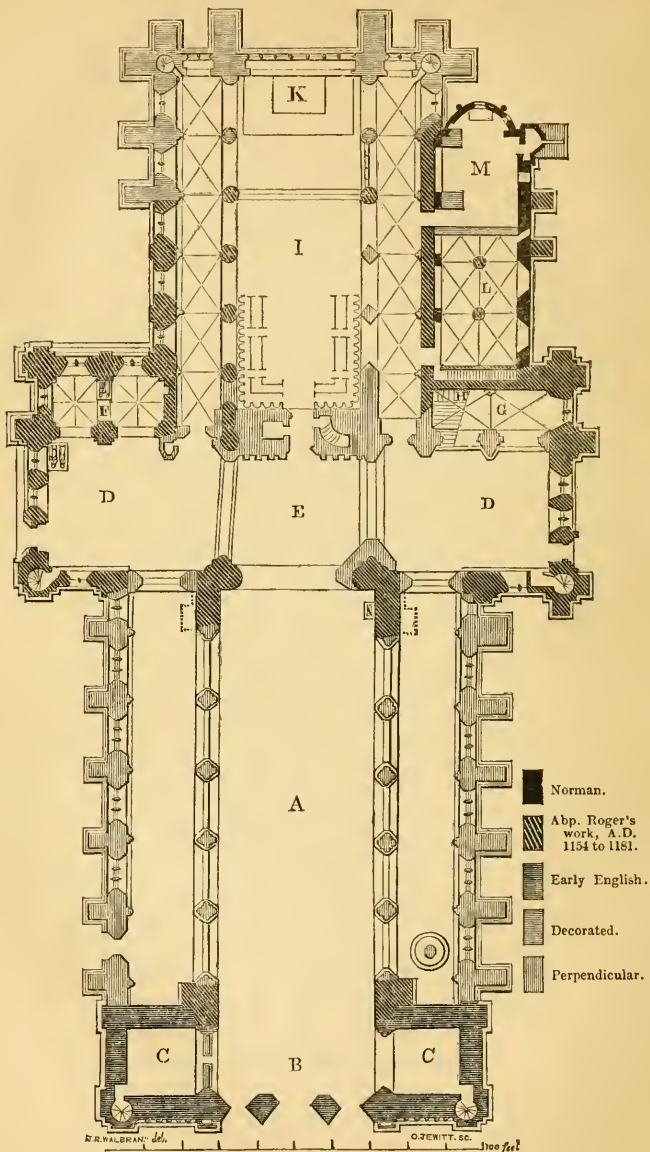
A new roof and ceiling was now bestowed on the nave, and its clerestory lights were repaired. The choir was groined, its windows re-glazed and repaired, a new altar-screen was erected, and some minor operations effected in the choir.

In consequence of the Report of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and under the provisions of an Act of Parliament, 6 & 7 Will. IV., c. 77, an Episcopal See was erected at Ripon, consisting of that part of the County of York heretofore in the Diocese of Chester, of the Deanery of Craven, and of such parts of the Deanery of the Ainsty and Pontefract, in the County and Diocese of York, as lie to the westward of the Liberty of the Ainsty and the Wapentakes of Barkstone Ash, Osgoldcross, and Staincross—a district containing the great towns of Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Wakefield, and Huddersfield, among a host of lesser note.

By this act, also, the Collegiate Church of Ripon, and the Chapter thereof, were made the Cathedral and Chapter of the new See ; and, according to ancient precedent, the town of Ripon became dignified with the appellation of a city.

The *Rev. Charles Thomas Longley*, D.D., the amiable and learned head master of Harrow School, was appointed first Bishop of Ripon ; and was consecrated in York Minster, Nov. 6, 1836.

The constitution of this Chapter was further changed by the Act 3 & 4 Vict., c. 113, which directs that the Prebendaries shall in future be designated Canons, and be reduced to four—each one of whom shall keep residence three months in each year, and the Dean eight months ; that the first vacant Canonry shall be suspended, and the second filled up, and that the Sub-deanery, also, shall be suspended on the next avoidance ; that the Canonries shall be in the patronage of the Bishop of Ripon, who is constituted visitor of the Chapter ; and that a certain sum shall be paid by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, to provide for the efficient performance of the duties of the said Chapter, and *for the maintenance of the fabric thereof*. It had been previously directed, by 2 & 3 Vict., c. 55, that upon the vacancy of any two Canonries or Prebends Residentiary in the Cathedral Church of Ripon, among others, that a successor should be appointed to the second of such vacant stalls respectively. It is enacted, also, by the 4 & 5 Vict., c. 39, that Honorary Canons shall be forthwith established in this, among other Cathedral Churches ; but none, as yet, have been appointed.



GROUND PLAN OF RIPON CATHEDRAL.

SURVEY OF THE CATHEDRAL.*

" They dreamt not of a perishable home,
 Who thus could build. Be mine in hours of fear,"
 Or grovelling thought, to seek a refuge here."

THE first Christian church that occupied the site of the present Cathedral was, doubtless, that of which we find remains in the Saxon crypt, called St. Wilfrid's Needle; but since, according to Leland, the monastery was situated elsewhere, and the original parish church of Ripon stood in Allhallowgate, we must conclude that Wilfrid built another, besides his conventual church at Ripon, as he did at Hexham, and that this was its identical site.

This structure would certainly not escape that devastation of King Edred, in 948, when even the monastery was not spared; and the next which arose on the site was a church which, Leland says, Odo, then Archbishop of Canterbury, "caused to be edified wher the Minstre now is." Of this building no traces remain; and the ruthless visit of William the Conqueror to the North will sufficiently account for its disappearance.

This state of destitution, I apprehend, then called on Thomas the Norman, whom the Conqueror had appointed Archbishop of York, to commence a new work, of which a portion—apparently the south aisle of the choir—remains attached to the corresponding member of the present church.

The rapid development of architectural science, rather, perhaps, than the necessity of the case, next prompted the taste and liberality of Roger, Archbishop of York, to begin, between the years 1154 and 1181, the erection of a new "Basilica," of which the proportions are amplified in the present structure only by the addition of the western towers, the aisles of the nave, and the elongation, by one bay, of the clerestory of the choir. The greater part of this work

* References to the plan :—

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A Nave. | G The Mallorie Chapel. |
| B West entrance. | H Steps leading to the Library. |
| C C West Towers. | I Choir. |
| D D North and South Transepts. | K High Altar. |
| E Centre, or St. Wilfrid's Tower. | L Chapter House. |
| F The Markenfield Chapel. | M Vestry. |

is now re-edified, yet sufficient remains to indicate the entire plan and design of a work which deserves considerable attention, not merely as the work of a noted builder and a member of the Church of Canterbury when the "glorious choir of Conrad" was in existence, but as having respect to a Continental, rather than an English development of the Romanesque method, and as forming a useful study in comparison with the neighbouring and contemporary structures of Fountains and Kirkstall, Jervaux and Byland.

The several alterations, which were subsequently introduced, have been sufficiently indicated in the brief historical account of the building, from which, also, it will have been perceived that the Cathedral contains an example of every style of Christian architecture that has been used in England from its introduction in the Saxon times to its utter debasement in the sixteenth century.

WEST FRONT.

On approaching the church by Kirkgate, which leads thither from the market-place, the western façade rises before the spectator in imposing dignity and beauty. Except the modern addition of pinnacles and battlements to the tower, it remains free from those superinductions which, however intrinsically beautiful, often offend the eye in this portion of cathedral and conventual churches, and presents one of the most majestic specimens of the Early English style in this kingdom. Though it was erected nearly a century after the death of Archbishop Roger, in amplification of his west end of the nave, which probably resembled in spirit that of the north transept; yet, with all its more artistic subdivision of individual parts, the general spirit—allowing for just assimilation—is strongly respective of Romanesque distribution, as exhibited in Roger's work, as the particular treatment of the design is shown to be by the west end of Southwell Collegiate Church.

The elevation exhibits a gabled compartment, 103 feet high and 43 feet wide, flanked by two towers of little superior altitude. In the basement story are three deeply-recessed doorways, surmounted by two tiers of lancet lights, occupying its whole width,—and divided by clustered and banded shafts, enriched with the toothed ornament, and terminated by foliated capitals. Each of these ten windows is divided into two trefoil-headed lights, and a surmounting quatrefoil—an arrangement which has been thought subsidiary

to the original design; though the date I have assigned to the work will prove not to be incongruous with the last gradation of the Early English style. Above the upper tier, the centre window being the tallest, and the rest receding in proportion, according to the spirit of the old Lombard fronts, are three lancet lights conjoined, in the swiftly declining pediment, which is finished by a bold corbel table, and crowned by a modern cross. The towers are on the same plane as the centre compartment, though divided from it by unstaged buttresses, that give a slight projection to each angle of the towers, and relieve the flatness that pervades the vast expanse of the western elevation. They are divided, above the basement-story, which shows in front a trifoliated arcade, into three stages, in each of which, the face, originally disengaged from the old nave, has an arcade of three members; the centre compartment of each being pierced with a lancet light, and the archivolt supported by tall banded shafts, some single, some clustered. A corbel table surmounts the last stage, and prepared originally for the lofty octagonal spires of timber and lead, that long and ably completed the effect of an original and striking design.

To finish the curtailed extremities, battlements were erected; but these being much injured by a violent wind in 1714, the offensive appearance remained until 1797, when Dean Waddilove added a similar work, with pinnacles—the best relief that, under circumstances, could be devised.

The southern tower contains a peal of eight BELLS, of the aggregate weight of 90 cwt. 0 qrs. 3 lbs., cast by Lester and Pack, in March, 1762. There hung there previously five bells, and one in the opposite tower, which was said to have been brought from Fountains Abbey.

THE CLOCK was put up by Thwaites, of London, at the cost of 400*l.*, in the south tower, in 1809, in the place of a similar public convenience, provided by Dean Dering, in 1723.

EXTERIOR OF THE NAVE.

Before a visitor enters the church, I would advise him to examine its northern elevation, in order to obtain a definite idea of some features that might otherwise seem inexplicable within, though the eye, refreshed by the beautiful western façade, may not relish the more severe character of the transept, or even that of the nave that rises by his side. The nave is divided in length into six bays;

the windows of the clerestory, from the absence of a triforium, being sufficiently capacious to contain five lights, while those of the side aisles have but three, and consequently less ramified tracery. On the south, and, perhaps, earlier side, the tracery of the aisle windows, as well as the section of the vaulting shafts, are of less angular character than the opposite members, and the buttresses have also a third or additional stage. On both the sides, the buttresses have been prepared for pinnacles, which should be supplied, as well as to the battlement of the clerestory, where they would contribute much to break the monotony of its long horizontal lines and the gloom of the slated roof.

TRANSEPT.

The north transept is the best example of the style of Roger's "Basilica,"—the corresponding member having been partially renewed in the fifteenth century. Each side is divided into bays by a pilaster process—though, from the addition of an eastern aisle, differently treated in detail. Yet, in front, the unfashionable Norman arrangement of a central pilaster—easy to be contrasted at Fountains—is discarded, and those at the angles are expanded sufficiently to form two square bell turrets, which rise to a level with the apex of the pediment. They are pierced in the summit of each face by a plain round-headed aperture, divided by a mullion, while cylindrical shafts enrich the angle of each turret, and form rudely-pointed pinnacles to its pyramidal termination, surmounted by a plain knob or pommel; the whole being a good example of an arrangement which shows the germ of a spire and pinnacles. The semicircular-headed lights are arranged in two tiers, between which the triforium intervenes in the interior. Below the six windows of the front is the doorway, not placed in the centre, but towards the west, and immediately opposite to one of nearly similar design in the south transept. This doorway is very remarkable, having a plain trefoil head, rising from a corbel-like projection, placed at the impost of the soffit, and is flanked by three receding shafts, whose elegantly foliated capitals assimilate with this Romanesque trefoil, and support an archivolt of bold but undecorated mouldings.

The transept has an eastern aisle, over which was originally a chapel, communicating with the triforium both of the transept and of the choir; but, when that part of the structure was considered superfluous, the apertures in the transept wall were closed, and the

roof settled to the level of the vault. A parapet wall, and a mullion to some of the windows, is all that intrudes on the original integrity of this part of the church.

The original design of the CENTRAL TOWER may here be advantageously observed. The extreme pitch of the ancient roofs nearly hid its exterior walls, except where the space on each side of the gables was pierced with a semicircular-headed window. A shaft that runs up the angle is checked only from forming a pinnacle by a capital that ranges with the corbel table ; and may have suggested the moulding that was afterwards used in the same portions of the western towers. The octagonal spire of timber and lead, that surmounted this tower until 1660, was of the height of 120 feet—having four spurs of the height of 21 feet, and a battlement at its base.

On passing towards the CHOIR, we see the most perfect specimen of Archbishop Roger's work in its three western bays, though, from the intrusion of Decorated windows in the side aisles, we may judge better of the original effect, by inspecting the contiguous face of the transept, which is precisely of the same design. The elevation of the clerestory exhibits, simply, a succession of bays, made by pilaster strips, each occupied by an arcade of one round between two pointed members, the central one being pierced for a window—a Romanesque design, which was, judiciously, assimilated in the subsequent construction of the western front. The remainder of this side of the Choir, being the two bays of the Presbytery, was rebuilt in the Decorated style, probably by Archbishop Melton (1319—1340), and is worthy of examination, if only from the amount of evidence it contributes to the disputed history of the Chapter-House at York, to which it bears strong resemblance in much of its character and detail.

The elevation of the east end, though simple in outline, is rendered extremely effective by the massy buttresses, capped with corresponding pinnacles or miniature turrets, which break it into three divisions, and flank its sides. Each of the aisles shows but a plain window like the lateral lights ; but the great window of seven lights, occupying an area 51 feet high and 25 wide, is a magnificent example of the Early Decorated style, though not so rich as the east window at Guisbrough Priory, with which the whole of this façade may, indeed, be usefully compared.

The south side of the church, being enclosed by the wall of the cemetery, cannot be conveniently viewed by a visitor before he is conducted through the interior.

INTERIOR OF THE NAVE.

On entering the church, at the western door, an imposing perspective, to the extent of 270 feet, is presented to the eye, intercepted only by the rood screen and the superincumbent organ; but presenting, in the most unseemly and useless protrusion of one of the piers of the central tower, an anachronism, which a previous external inspection could alone, instantly, explain. The harmonious design of the spacious nave, captivating even to a spectator unacquainted with the principles and capabilities of Gothic architecture, will fill him with astonishment, who finds that, at least, the proportions of the plan were defined by antecedent operations; and that a judicious apportionment of its constituent parts has effected almost entirely this triumphant result. The tall and graceful pillars that support, without an intermediate triforium, a range of lofty windows of elaborate tracery, extending from the summit of the arcade to the panels of the roof, range on the foundation walls of Archbishop Roger's nave; the aisles having been obtained by comprehending a space defined by the towers that projected to give breadth to the western front. This combination has rendered the nave the widest of any cathedral in the kingdom, except those of York, Chichester, Winchester, and St. Paul's—measuring 87 feet. If we may judge from the bays still incorporated with the extremities of the present nave, the structure which preceded it must have had a sombre, though singular, effect, having presented a lofty pointed triforium, surmounted by plain round-headed lights, and divided into bays by shafts resembling those in the transept. The aisles remain open to the roof; but it is evident that they were intended to be groined, from the springers, whose capitals are adorned with angels holding shields, five of which are charged. On the north side are,

Three horse shoes, for Fountains Abbey.

Quarterly, 1 and 4, two battleaxes in pale, in chief two mullets; 2 and 3, a squirrel sejant, cracking a nut, surmounted by a Cardinal's hat; being the arms of Archbishop Bainbridge, created a Cardinal in 1511, and poisoned at Rome in 1514.

Three stars of six rays; the mediæval insignia of St. Wilfrid.

On the south side, the last shield; and that of

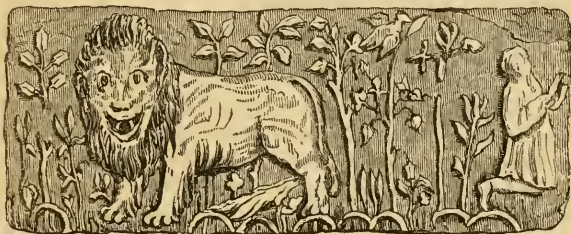
Savage, Archbishop of York, 1501-7—a pall imp. a pale fusily.

On the west pillar of the northern colonnade are sculptured, also two contemporary shields:

1st. Three mill picks, two and one—Pigot of Clotherholme.

2nd. A bugle-horn, belted and garnished ; being the arms of the town. The letters RIPON now interspersed are here omitted, but the belt is studded with bosses, similar to those of silver, on that worn by the Serjeant-at-Mace in procession. Randal Pigot was the Wakeman in 1471.

The font, an octagon of blue marble, supported by a shaft and splayed base of the same mystical form, is coeval with the present nave, and stood in its canonical, but inconvenient, situation, at its western extremity, until 1722, when it was removed to that end of the south aisle.



BAS-RELIEF ON A TOMB IN THE SOUTH AISLE.

Near the font, and contiguous to the outer wall, will be observed an ALTAR-TOMB covered with a slab of grey marble, on the horizontal surface of which is sculptured, in low relief, the representation of a man and a lion in a grove of trees ; its romantic allusion being rendered more tantalising by a black-letter inscription, which is irretrievably defaced on the vertical stone below. A century ago, tradition recounted that it covered the body of an Irish Prince, who died at Ripon, on his return from Palestine, whence he had brought a lion that followed him with all the docility and faithfulness of a spaniel ; but the precatory position of the man induces me rather to suppose that the sculpture is in memory of his consequent providential deliverance from the ferocious animal, whose attitude is indicative of fear.

Near the north-west pier of the central tower is a monumental bust, and quaint inscription, commemorating Hugh Ripley, the last Wakeman and first Mayor, who died in 1637 ; restored, after its destruction by the Quixotes of the Civil War, by Mr. Harvey, at the expense of the Corporation, in 1725.

It is much to be regretted that the fall of the southern and eastern

sides of the Lantern, or ST. WILFRID'S TOWER, previously to 1459, should have deprived us of the effect of its four elegant Romanesque arches, springing from an altitude little less than forty feet. Though the eye will be offended by the mixture of the Perpendicular with the original style, and especially, on entering the church, by the obtrusion of its south-western pier, it is some consolation that this defection in the design, or rather in the Chapter funds, has preserved such an interesting specimen of art as the remnant of Archbishop Roger's tower. On the face of the western piers opposite the nave, there remain, at about the height of 28 feet, two brackets, for the support of the original rood beam, which must have formed a most conspicuous object on entering the church.

The TRANSEPT demands particular attention from the architectural antiquary, as it presents, in all but the eastern wall of the southern member, a specimen of imperfectly developed Early English work, which, by comparison with the two transepts of the adjacent Abbey of Fountains, will alone afford a valuable illustration of the progress of architectural design in the latter half of the twelfth century.

Though the pointed arches of the eastern aisle, and the triforium above, with its germ of double lights and tracery, apparently give to the interior of this part of Roger's church a more developed character than the exterior; yet, in its round and flat trefoils, its lintels, its alternating round and pointed arches, a strong attachment is still manifested for the Romanesque; which must here have been considerably increased, when the original flat roof neutralised the upward aspiring tendency, which was the soul of the Gothic style. This may be also observed in each end of the transept, where the three bays are not continued on one plane upwards to the roof, but are each crowned with a semicircular head rising from the shafts that divide the windows of the clerestory.

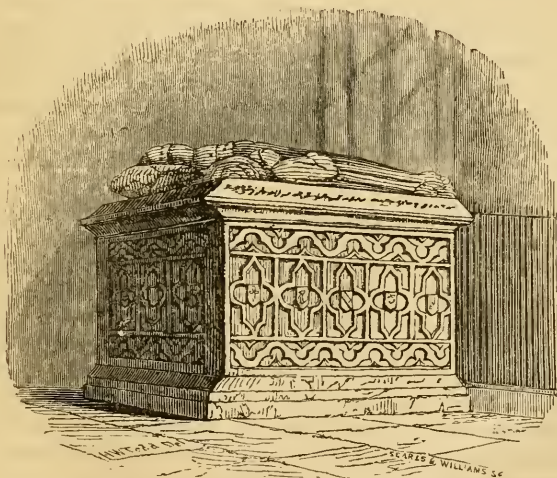
I need not, unfortunately, warn an observer that the groining of the Transept is a recent work; nor that its character is aggravated by grafting new capitals on the old shafts, in a style and position wholly inconsistent with the old design.

In the aisle of the North Transept—the original groining of which, still lingering with the square bay and flat dividing arch, merits notice, on account of its early character—was formerly the CHANTRY of ST. ANDREW; the piscina, a round trefoil aperture, with a projecting basin, remaining in the south wall. This chapel was also the burial-place of the Markenfields of Markenfield, near this city; but no other memorial of them now remains in it, except a fine

altar-tomb of Sir Thomas Markenfield, a warrior in the time of Richard II., and Dionisia his wife, daughter of Sir William Fitzwilliam, of Elmley. He is vested in a suit of complete armour, and wears a collar, which, on being recently cleaned, exhibits the design of a park-pale and a stag couchant, above the elongated, but depressed, pales in front. His arms (argent) on a bend (sable), three bezants, are sculptured on his breast, and on the hilt of his richly-decorated sword; as well as repeated, impaling Fitzwilliam and Miniot, in a series of 15 shields, graven round the tomb, commemorative of the alliances of his powerful and chivalrous race.

There has been removed from the north-east angle of this chapel that noble altar-tomb, of unusual height, without the rails, on which are placed the effigies of Sir Thomas Markenfield and Elenor his wife, daughter of Sir John Conyers of Hornby Castle. On the champ or filleting of this tomb is the following memorial, in defaced and obscure characters, which consanguinity with the persons commemorated has alone furnished me with patience to explain.

*Hic iacent tomas m'kenfeld miles et elenor uxor (ejus ille obiit pri)mo
menc' maij anno d[omi]ni mccc[xxv] q[ui] fuit seneschallus isti' ville et
kirkbi mallzede et elenor [obiit] v[er]o die menc' maij a[nte] d[omi]ni mcccc[xxv].*



TOMB OF SIR THOMAS MARKENFIELD, 1497.

The arms on the sides are, a saltire ; a chevron ; a cross flory for Ward of Givendale ; a maunch, for Conyers ; Markenfield ; and Roos.

The Markenfield Chapel has been used since the seventeenth century as the burial-place of the Blackets of Newby ; and, among several tablets to their memory, contains a cumbrous pile, recently restored, in honour of Sir Edward Blacket, Bart., who died in 1718, and is represented in a recumbent position, with two of his wives standing by him. The inscription is diffuse, but fortunately genealogical.

A STONE PULPIT, of Early Perpendicular character, and unusual form—inasmuch as it is without a stem—stands by the entrance to the north aisle of the Choir. It has evidently been removed from another position, though it has been originally attached to a wall or a pillar.

The destruction of the east and south sides of the great tower, about the year 1459, caused the renovation of the contiguous side of the transept, in massy Perpendicular character, which may be usefully contrasted with the original Early English mode of treatment, in the corresponding member of the north transept.

THE AISLE OF THE SOUTH TRANSEPT has been, immemorially, the sepulchral chapel of the Lords of Studley Royal, and as such is vaulted below. Here, among many of their less renowned ancestors and descendants, rest Sir William Mallorie, one of the Council of the North under Queen Elizabeth ; Sir John Mallorie, who defended Skipton Castle for King Charles, in the grand rebellion ; his grandson John Aislabie, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and his son William Aislabie, Auditor of the Imprest, and Member of Parliament for Ripon sixty years.

It will be almost needless to observe that the memorial of Mr. Weddell, at the end of the south transept, is designed after the Choragic monument of Lysicrates at Athens. The bust is by Nollekens, and the tripod, on which it is placed, was modelled from an antique in his noble statue gallery at Newby.

The stone SCREEN at the entrance of the Choir was erected when the Perpendicular piers between which it is placed were renewed, after the ruin of the tower, about the year 1459 ; but whether to replace another, cannot at present be ascertained, since the Choir may have been previously prolonged to the rood screen between the western piers of the tower. The present work is 19 feet high, and presents the arrangement, simple in outline, but elaborate in detail,

of a doorway having four niches on each side, a tier of twenty-four smaller niches above, and a cornice bearing shields with rests, that appear to have been coloured and charged. On the lower pedestals are shields, bearing a cross flory, for Ward of Givendale; three mill picks for Pigot; a chevron between three mulletts, for Pudsey; three billets; and the mark of a merchant. The folding doors, adorned with elaborate tracery, are a good example of their style. They bear, carved on shields, a mitre; three mascles; three stars of 5 rays; a sword in pale; two keys in saltire, surmounted by a regal crown, for the See of York; and a cross of Calvary raguled.

The organ, above this screen, usurped, in 1833, the place of one constructed, on the spot, by Gerard Schmidt, in 1695 and 6, and accounted one of the sweetest-toned in the kingdom. The diapasons of the great organ were of rich, full, inimitable melody; but there was no swell, and only eighteen stops. The whole of its choir-organ comprehending the open and stop diapason, principal, dulciana, and flute, are fortunately retained in the present instrument, which was built by Mr. Booth of Leeds.

THE SAXON CRYPT, OR "ST. WILFRID'S NEEDLE."

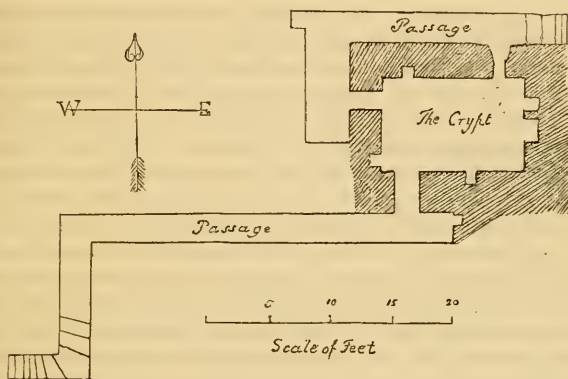
Before quitting the nave, an antiquary must not forget to examine the far-famed Crypt under the Central Tower, the position of which, and therefore of the whole of Roger's Church, it has directly influenced. After a narrow and inconvenient passage of 45 feet from the nave, he will arrive in a cylindrically-vaulted cell, 7 feet 9 inches wide, 11 feet 3 inches long, and 9 feet 4 inches high, dark and cheerless as the grave. As it is all but destitute of those indicia by which its precise antiquity might be determined, a wide scale of chronology has been applied to it, and some have supposed it to have been originally a Roman sepulchral vault; in imitation of which it has indeed been constructed. By the comparison, however, of its ground plan, with that of a crypt at Hexham in Northumberland, it will become evident that both these crypts were built on the same very peculiar plan, and in the same mode of construction; and that as we know, on the authority of Richard Prior of Hexham, that Wilfrid introduced a crypt of this remarkable character into the Conventual Church of Hexham, it is reasonable to conclude that this also was of his foundation. Yet, since Leland has proved that the Monastery of Ripon did not

occupy the precise site of the present Cathedral, this crypt has, doubtless, not been in immediate connexion with the Conventual Church, but with another of Wilfrid's churches, now forgotten. The annexed ground-plan will explain the arrangement of the crypt better than any other description I can adopt. It may, however, be added, in its illustration, that in consequence of the subsequent construction of the piers of the tower, it is uncertain whether the passages remain on their original plan. That the western portion of the passage from the nave has been disturbed, is evident, indeed, both from the masonry of the walls, and an early monumental stone, bearing a plain cross, that forms a portion of the roof. It may be added, too, that the space at the west-end of the chapel is covered by a semi-vault rising towards the east, which has originally carried the stairs of the superincumbent altar, and that the doorways, corresponding in size and form with those at Hexham, are but rude apertures in the wall, each covered by a lintel, in which the semi-circular heads are gained. The niches also are but plain recesses, with semicircular heads. One in the western wall has the addition of a deep basin in the base, and others, a funnel-like aperture behind the arch, as if to carry off the smoke of a lamp. "The needle" has been formed by perforating the niche 13 inches wide and 18 inches high, on the north side, through the thickness of the wall to the parallel passage behind, said to ascend to the porch, in the choir screen, behind the sub-dean's stall.

The purposes to which this very singular place has been successively applied, are not certainly ascertained—though there seems no doubt but that originally it was intended to serve as a place of retirement, humiliation, penance, and prayer. Camden was told, within memory of the Reformation, that females were drawn through the needle as an ordeal of their chastity—the culprit being miraculously detained ; or, as Fuller wittily observed, "They prick'd their credits who could not thread the needle." As far, however, as the contraction of space was concerned, the frailest of the frail might have rioted in intrigue unconvicted. A conscious reluctance to assume the necessary prostrate position was, I apprehend, the real difficulty.

As it is very evident that the "Needle" is but an enlargement of one of the original niches of the Crypt, it may be presumed that its purpose, whatever it may have been, has been devised at a period long subsequent to the construction of the building, when anxiety prevailed in the religious houses of exhibiting miraculous

agency through the intervention of their patron saint, or of some notable person connected with their foundation. The manner in which this purpose was developed, is, however, in this case, very peculiar, and may have been derived from an extremely ancient heathen superstition, which ascribed miraculous powers, though generally of a sanitary nature, to certain objects, such as cloven rocks and ash trees, through which the patient was to pass; the practice being perhaps symbolical of a "second birth, whereby a living being is ushered into the world free from those impurities and imperfections incorporated with a former life."



Although a knowledge of the legerdemain practised by our Canons will support the belief of an ordeal more absurd than that which Camden has recorded; it was, perhaps, through its medium as a confessional, that the Needle mortified the spirit rather than the flesh;—the penitent kneeling by the narrow orifice he had reached from the nave, while the priest sat near the expanding embouchure, to which he descended from the choir.

Lastly, this convenient peculiarity of ingress and egress might also render the vault a fit sepulchre, whence the host, or image of Christ—removed on Good Friday from the nave, a type of the church militant on earth—would be brought up into the choir, the emblem of the church triumphant in heaven, on the anniversary of the morn of the resurrection.

INTERIOR OF THE CHOIR.

On emerging again to the nave, the visitor must turn to the elegant and spacious choir, where many interesting considerations will arise. Its proportions, I apprehend, are defined by Archbishop Roger's plan ; but of his main superstructure, three bays on the north side and a pillar on the south alone remain, though the outer wall of the south aisle proves the prolongation of the work eastward, within a few feet of its present extremity. It may, however, be assumed, as well from its unusual length as from a fashion of the style—exemplified in the kindred Abbey of Byland—that the original clerestory was shorter by one bay than the present, and that the aisle circulated round its eastern extremity. The three bays opposite Roger's work were renewed after the ruin of the contiguous angle of the centre tower, about 1459 ; the rest of the choir, on both sides, having been renewed, in the Decorated style, in the former half of the fourteenth century. This work—elegant in spirit though simple in detail—comprehends the Presbytery ; though its special character is now only indicated by a double suite of tracery in the clerestory windows, an arcade round the basement of the outer wall, and the elevation of the floor. Its most powerful effect, however, was doubtless contributed by its stained glass ; if we may judge from those fragments of the East window which escaped destruction in the great rebellion, and were collected into the twelve circular compartments placed in the tracery by Dean Dering, in 1724. St. Peter with his golden key, and St. Paul with his sword, occupy the upper quatrefoils of the sub-arches. Below the former is St. Andrew tied to his cross, and to the south of him, a female habited in green, with a blue mantle, holding a cross with fleurs-de-lis at the points. The date of this decoration, and consequently the completion of the Presbytery, is fixed after the year 1340, by two shields that remain in their original position in the spandrils of the sub-arches, the one being that of England within a bordure of France, and surmounted by a label of three points azure ; the other that of France, azure, semé de lis, or ; as assumed by Edward III., but much confused in a recent repair.

Besides a remarkable assimilation of the Early English, Decorated, and Perpendicular, all of which meet in the third bay from the east end on the south side ; the Choir presents also another remarkable spectacle in the arrangement of the windows in two

tiers. This, however, formed no part of an original design ; but was gained by glazing the traceried apertures of the triforium, the roof of which was then settled to the vaulting of the aisles. Uninformed of this fact, the student has often gazed in astonishment on the two pointed lights of the round-headed arch, divided by a slender column, and ornamented with those sharp cusps, which are, in reality, shown from the more modern mullion behind.

The partial fall of the great tower, about 1459, occasioned ultimately the uniform re-decoration of the choir throughout; and nobly did the Canons accomplish their design. Elaborate lattice work of exceeding beauty screened it from its aisles, and thirty-two canopied stalls occupied the western extremity and the space of two intercolumniations on each side. When the roof was burst in by the shattered spire in 1660, the storied tabernacles of the damaged stalls on each side were repaired by an incongruous work ; and subsequently, from time to time, the lattices have been carelessly and ignorantly mangled, to form the gallery fronts, and portions of the pews below. One portion in the north aisle, with a singular and contemporary iron scutcheon, contains a fragment of the inscription recorded by Dodsworth, that was "cut in wood about St. Wilfrid's Quire," and the date mcccc^olxxxr^o[v]ij^o. At the eastern extremity of the south range was the ancient throne of the Archbishop of York, still identified by a carved mitre behind. The space of two stalls was comprehended for this purpose in 1684 ; but the unseemly canopy was supplanted in 1812 by the present throne, which was executed by Archer of Oxford, at an expense of 200*l.*, defrayed by Archbishop Markham. The shield on its ancient finial, bears three estoiles, the insignia of St. Wilfrid, supported by angels, and surmounted with a mitre ; the date below, *Anno D'ni* 1494, the latest on the woodwork of the stalls, indicating the time of their completion. The poppie above, fashioned as an elephant bearing a military tower, with its defenders, is one of the most singular of its class of ornament ; and the fidelity with which the animal is detailed is very remarkable. The stall opposite to the Bishop's throne is occupied by the Mayor, as it probably was by the Wake-man, since it is larger and more adorned than the rest of the adjoining range. A shield charged with two keys in saltire, one of the armorial bearings of the See of York, adorns the finial on which the Mace has been supported since 1646. Of the western range, the Dean occupies the first stall on the south ; the Canon in residence that of the late Sub-Dean on the north ; and the rest are assigned

to the Canons by labels over each. The Archdeacons of Richmond and Craven occupy lateral stalls, and the rest on the north are used by the members of the Municipal Corporation. The appurtenant subsellia display a number of curious and satirical conceits, in the majority of which more is meant than meets the eye, or I can now attempt to explain.

The ALTAR-SCREEN was erected in 1832, after a design by Mr. Blore ; a large painting by Streater, serjeant-painter to Charles II., representing an Ionic colonnade, having previously occupied its place. On removing it, a panelled screen of wood, rudely painted, was discovered, and behind it the original reredos of Melton's work, which should have been allowed to remain, though it was merely a continuation of the arcade, which may still be seen in the aisles. The altar-stone, with its five crosses, was found below the present table.

The original PISCINA of the high altar was displaced by the erection of the present screen ; but that of a chantry at the adjoining end of the south aisle remains, in the shape of a basin resting on a cylindrical shaft. In this aisle, too, a remarkable LAVATORY, near the Vestry door, must be noticed.

Three SEDILIA, with a curtailed PISCINA, occupy the whole of the second intercolumniation from the east, and have richly crocketed ogee heads, resting on square pillars, the surfaces of which are adorned with the Tudor rose. The grotesque capitals and quaintly devised cusps, are interesting specimens of our proficiency in sculpture at the close of the fifteenth century ; though the general design betrays the decline of sound architectural principles. It will be needless to warn a practised eye that the upper portion is an unauthorised "restoration."

From indications in the wall, it is evident that there was a chapel in each aisle of the Presbytery ; that on the north side having contained, I apprehend, the Shrine of St. Wilfrid.*

The elegant wooden bosses of the Perpendicular VAULTING OF THE CHOR, which was broken in by the fall of St. Wilfrid's spire in 1660, are replaced in the modern groining ; and viewing them from the west, thus appear : a King seated ; a Bishop seated ; the Annunciation of the Virgin ; the good Samaritan ; a King and a Bishop seated ; the angel expelling Adam and Eve from Paradise—a group where motion is wonderfully expressed ; a King seated ; a Bishop,

* On the Northe Syde of the Quiere, S. Wilfridi reliquiæ sub arcu prope mag. altare sepuite, nuper sublata.—Lel. Itin. v. 8, p. 22.

in exquisitely cast robes, giving the benediction ; and an aged man conducting a female to the door of a church.

CHAPTER-HOUSE AND VESTRY.

There is attached to the south aisle of the Choir a building, or rather a part of a building, which, being evidently of unusual antiquity, and unconnected either in style or plan with Roger's Church, has been long confidently supposed to be the original Church of Wilfrid, or, at least, the structure erected by Odo about the year 950. I should contentedly concur in this latter proposition, if each characteristic part of the building had not satisfied me that its age is subsequent to the Norman Conquest ; and historical evidence concurred to warrant the supposition. I suggest, therefore, that it is the south aisle of a Collegiate Church which the devastation that ensued in these parts after the year 1069, demanded from Thomas, Archbishop of York, who was Lord of Ripon at the time when the Domesday Survey was made, and died here, on the 18th of November, 1100. The rest of that structure was doubtless destroyed by Archbishop Roger, when he commenced his "Basilica," this portion being retained, as convenient for the Chapter-House and Sacristy ;—the arcade by which it joined its original structure having been closed and flanked by the wall of the Choir. This arcade, which has no capitals to the square piers, and but a chamfered margin, is hid from a casual observer in the Chapter-House, and encumbered in the Vestry by two buttresses, formed in the Decorated period, to balance the intended vaulting of the Choir. The south and east sides of the building only are detached from Roger's Church, and present a peculiar appearance ; since the Crypt, which runs its whole length, has, in consequence of the favourable declivity of the ground, a tier of lights, which appear prominently in the elevation. During or very soon after Roger's time, the Chapter-House, and probably the Vestry, was vaulted with plain chamfered ribs, to cylindrical pillars, and the *freestone* buttresses applied to the southern wall ; but in the Vestry all traces of this work have disappeared, except some brackets, perhaps in consequence of the intrusion of the Decorated buttresses. The Vestry, however, presents a more interesting appearance in its apsidal termination ; where, on account of the contiguity of the Choir, the central window is accompanied only by a light on the south, below which is a square recess and a small round-headed piscina, with a

projecting basin. The altar does not appear to have been of stone, but its platform, a concrete mass, bounded by wrought stone, remains attached to the wall.

On the south side of the Vestry is a closet or small apartment, formed in the lateral apse, which has been, originally, a kind of Sacristy, and, subsequently, a receptacle for the valuables of the Church. On its west side is a recess, communicating with the churchyard, which has contained a sink or lavatory, and, from the trace of an arch in the exterior of the Norman wall, appears to have been formed for that purpose.

From the Chapter-House, there is a descent to that portion of the Crypt now used as a sepulchral vault; but our survey of this interesting portion of the Church must be obtained from its continuation in the celebrated "BONE-HOUSE," to which, since its division, an entrance has been formed from the churchyard; whither the visitor must now proceed to complete his inspection of the exterior of the Church.

The head of the Saxon Cross now placed over the Bone-House door, was found in 1832, in taking down a wall of the time of Henry VIII., at the east end of the Choir. It has been supposed to be the head of one of those seen by Leland, in the garth of the Abbey; but the Minster-yard might, with equal probability, have furnished such an object.

From the vaulting of the Crypt, still unshrouded by the bones that have been amassed around, the age of the structure is definitely ascertained. It is supported by square pillars, each with a plain, concave capital, on which rest the semicircular arches, of nearly equal width. These rise from pillar to pillar and pier in a rectangular form, and have been strengthened in the Perpendicular period, when additional substance has been added to the pillars themselves. The windows, 3 ft. 7 in. high, and 9 in. wide, retain the double splay which has been supposed to characterise the Saxon style, and flange inward considerably; but all further examination of the Crypt is prevented by the piles of bones, that extend nearly half its width on the north side, and for three feet beneath our feet.

Above the Vestry and Chapter-House, a chapel, yet called the LADY LOFT, was erected about 1482. It is reached by a flight of stairs from the south transept, which also served a Chantry chapel over the west end of the choir aisle. There were, formerly, two divisions of the Lady Loft, of which, the eastern was used as the

Collegiate Library; but the partition was removed in 1840, and the whole apartment is, at present, appropriated to that purpose.

The foundation of the LIBRARY dates only from 1624, when Dean Higgins bequeathed his collection of books to the Chapter, and laid the foundation of a design that has not received the attention it deserves. Such books as the Canons possessed before the Reformation were probably deposited in the Vestry, where Leland, a little while before, was shown the Life of St. Wilfrid, by Peter Blesensis, of which he has preserved some passages in his Collectanea. None of these books can be identified in the present collection; nor, indeed, can any be certainly ascertained to have belonged to the Chapter before the bequest of Higgins.

Before the Reformation, Leland observed "that the Prebendaries' Houses" the sites of which may still be defined, "be buildid in Places nere to the Minstre, and emong them the Archebishop hath a fair palace. And the Vicar's houses be by it in a fair quadrant of square stone buildid by Henry Bowet, Archebishop of York." These six members of the church having been formed into a body corporate by King Henry V., had ordinances made for their government by the Archbishop, when he allotted them a part of his Manor Garth for the site of their house, in 1450. In the time of Queen Elizabeth, when a college was projected at Ripon, this house was to have formed part of the fabric, and was repaired for that purpose; but before 1625, it was almost entirely destroyed, and a new house erected, which became the Deanery.

The Palace or Manor Hall, where the Archbishop of York had a residence—most probably from the Saxon, but, certainly, from the Norman times—stood on the north side of the nave of the Cathedral, in a site which retains its Saxon appellation of "The Hall-yard." It was "a fair Palace" at the time of the Reformation, but went so far to decay after that period, that at the request of the Corporation in 1629, Archbishop Harsnet offered "to bestowe his great howse, or some part thereof," as a workhouse for the poor. It probably was not long used for this purpose; but became so dilapidated that, within recollection, little more than a portion sufficient for holding the Quarter Sessions and Manor Courts was left, and this was ruthlessly and wantonly destroyed in 1830—when the present Court House was erected on the site.

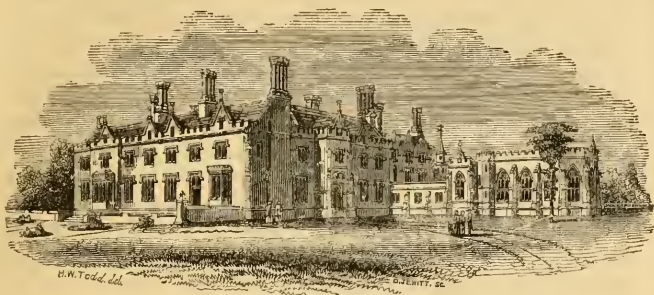
The Park appurtenant to the Palace, and in Leland's time

"vj miles in cumpace," is on the north side of the city, beyond the High Common; but having been long divided into farms, retains little trace of its original condition, except the remains of the Keeper's Lodge—a building in the Perpendicular style, incorporated with one of the farm-houses.

TRINITY CHURCH.

THERE are eleven chapels of ease appurtenant to the cathedral and parish church, but this only within the city. It was built and endowed by the late Rev. Edward Kilvington, M.A., at an expense of 13,000*l.*, bequeathed for Christian purposes, by his relative, Thomas Kilvington, Esq., M.B., a noted medical practitioner in this city. The first stone was laid on the 28th of July, 1826, and such expedition was used that it was consecrated by the Archbishop of York on the 31st of October, 1827. It is of cruciform arrangement, and designed by the late Mr. Thomas Taylor, whose successful practice in the delineation of our ancient and genuine architecture should have suggested something better than this absurd and incongruous compilation. The spire is the most tolerable portion, and forms a conspicuous object at a considerable distance. The edifice contains 1000 sittings, and a powerful organ, built by Renn and Boston, of Manchester. On the north side of the chancel is a faithful bust of the late Rev. E. Kilvington, by Mr. Angus Fletcher, which, "in grateful remembrance of his name and work, his friends and hearers caused to be erected." He died January 28th, 1835, aged 68 years.

A house was erected, by subscription, for the incumbent of this church, on the opposite side of the road, in 1849; and may, at least, suggest the existence of a mode of building different to that which has hitherto disfigured the many beautiful sites around the city.



THE EPISCOPAL PALACE,

A SPACIOUS stone building, designed in the Tudor style by Mr. Railton, occupies a slight eminence about a mile north-west of the city, commanding agreeable prospects down the valleys of the Laver and the Ure, as well as of the cathedral and the city. The foundation stone was laid by the Bishop of Ripon, on Monday, the 1st of October, 1838, and the structure was prepared for his reception in the autumn of 1841.

The appurtenant demesne, which adjoins the ancient manorial park of the Archbishop of York, contains one hundred and nine acres, and was gratuitously ceded by Mrs. Lawrence, the lessee of that prelate, who also provided the building stone.

A small chapel had been originally included among the apartments of the Palace, but a disposition having been manifested by the inhabitants of a neighbouring hamlet to attend the services that were more particularly intended for the Bishop's household, the late Archbishop of York, who had witnessed the inconvenience of their number, and their inability regularly to visit the parish church, munificently placed the sum of 3000*l.* at the disposal of the Bishop of Ripon, wherewith to erect a more suitable structure. A site having been accordingly chosen on the east side of the Palace, the foundation of a suitable structure, designed by Mr. Railton, in the Perpendicular style, was laid on the 24th of June, 1846.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND INSTITUTIONS.

THE HOSPITAL OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE, founded by an Archbishop of York who was forgotten so early as 1341, stands at the northern extremity of Stammergate, not far from the river Ure. The Alms-houses were rebuilt in 1674: but the Chapel, on the opposite side of the way, remains as it was left at the Reformation. The original structure of the twelfth century, containing a rudely-ornamented Norman doorway, has been repaired during the Perpendicular era, when the screen and its appurtenant blanchéd stalls were constructed. A low side-window of this date in the middle of the south wall has been partially walled up. Besides these relics, there is the stone high altar remaining in its proper position, and on its south side a smaller slab in the floor that appears, from the incised crosses, to have served a similar purpose, probably before the elongation of the chapel. The pavement before the altar, 11 feet long and 3 feet 8½ inches wide, is worthy of attentive consideration; for if it is not actually Roman, as is generally supposed, it has certainly been copied from a work of that period, in the twelfth century.

THE HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, nigh Bondgate Bridge, owes its origin to Thomas, the second Archbishop of York, who was translated to that See in 1109. The Chapel, which seems to have been built about the time of Edward II., and is in nowise remarkable, was much enlarged in 1812, and converted into a National School. Two poor women, recipients of the charity, reside in an adjacent cottage.

THE HOSPITAL OF ST. ANNE, in High St. Agnesgate, of the foundation and structure of an uncertain benefactor about the time of Edward IV., accommodates eight poor women with apartments and a small pension. Its little Chapel, in a state of picturesque decay, retains the piscina and altar-stone, on which tradition asserts that the ransom of a Scottish king was paid. A stone bearing the arms of Sir Solomon Swale, of South Stainley, with the date 1664, has been walled into the window towards the street. The burial-ground is now used as a garden.

JEPSON'S HOSPITAL, in Water Skellgate, was founded in 1672, by Zacharias Jepson, of York, apothecary, and a native of this place, who bequeathed 3000*l.* to feoffees to purchase lands for the maintenance and education of twenty orphan boys, or poor tradesmen's

sons, of the town of Ripon, who were to be admitted at the age of seven years. This laudable institution has subsequently received benefactions, but the injudicious investment of the original funds had caused the number of boys to be reduced to ten.

THE FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, in St. Agnesgate, and on the south side of the church-yard, was first founded in 1546, by King Edward VI., but incorporated by Philip and Mary, 27th June, 1555, and endowed chiefly from the revenues of certain chantries in this church and parish. Matthew Hutton, Archbishop of Canterbury ; Bishop Porteus ; and Archdeacon Thomas Balcuy, were among the eminent men who have been instructed here.

THE TOWN HALL, on the south side of the Market-place, was built from a design by Wyatt, in 1801, at the expense of Mrs. Allanson, of Studley. In the Assembly Room, which occupies the upper front story, is a full-length portrait of Mrs. Allanson ; and in a lower room, now used as a News Room, a characteristic bust in marble, of Mrs. Lawrence, the niece of Mrs. Allanson, by Mr. Angus Fletcher. The eastern part of the building is occupied by the Town-clerk.

The Wesleyan METHODIST CHAPEL, on Coltsgate Hill, was built in 1777 ; that of the New Connexion of Methodists, in Low Skellgate, in 1795. The Temple, or Calvinist Chapel, in 1818 ; and a Chapel for Primitive Methodists, in Priest Lane, in 1821, which was enlarged in 1841.

A great local accommodation was acquired in 1833, by the institution of the PUBLIC ROOMS in Low Skellgate. A commodious mansion, with a garden extending to the river behind, was first purchased by shareholders, and appropriated chiefly to the establishment of a Circulating Library and a News Room ; but the project having been encouraged, another building, containing an apartment 52 ft. by 26 ft., and suitable for general public assemblies, was erected in addition in 1834.

THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTION was established 26th February, 1831, and associated with a literary society in 1844. Its advantages having been long misunderstood and neglected, it was held in an insufficient and hired apartment until 1849 ; when, on the manifestation of a more enlightened perception, an independent building was erected by subscription at the east end of the Public Rooms. Besides apartments for the resident secretary, it contains a Class and Lecture Room, 40 ft. by 20 ft. ; a Reading Room 24 ft. by 20 ft. ; and another Class Room 20 ft. 6 in. by 15 ft. 9 in. There

are, at present, upwards of two hundred members, of whom a few of the most active and zealous have succeeded, within the last four years, in establishing five kindred institutions in the neighbourhood.

A NATIONAL SCHOOL for boys, conducted on Dr. Bell's plan, has been held, since its commencement in 1812, in St. John's Chapel, Bondgate; and another for girls, established originally in 1803, as a Sunday School, is kept in a building in High St. Agnesgate, erected by Mrs. Lawrence of Studley. There are also National Schools in connection with the Parish Church, Trinity Church, and the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel.

A DISPENSARY was commenced in Ripon as early as 1790, and has recently been conducted with a most beneficial result; but, lacking sufficient endowment, it was held in a dwelling-house, until the bequest of 1000*l.* by the late Mrs. Lawrence was judiciously expended, in 1850, in the erection of a suitable building in Ferraby Lane.

A joint-stock company established GAS WORKS here in 1830, and so provided a public convenience, which—with reference to the interests of the inhabitants—should have been anticipated and conducted by the Municipal Corporation. The capital of the company is divided into one hundred and eighty shares of 25*l.* each, the holders of which have, at present, a favourable prospect of realising their speculation. The Gas-house is in Stammergate.

It was left, also, to the enterprise of an individual to construct the WATER-WORKS, by which a daily supply from the river Skell—raised in the mill at Duck-hill bank—is forced to taps in the main-streets, and such houses as may require it.

A public BATHING HOUSE was erected on Skell-bank, by subscription, in 1812, and is supplied from ST. WILFRID'S WELL, which rises in a field a little to the west of it, and not far from the close where "the Gospel tree" stood. Its stream, however, as well as that of a spring on BORRAGE GREEN, had been protected and collected in stone basins, for public use, by Dr. Richardson, of Ripon, in 1758 and 1762, being both of exceeding pure quality, and much frequented. There is, also, another valuable spring, called ST. HELEN'S WELL, about a mile from the city, by the side of the Leeds road; and a SULPHURETTED SPA, which, though slightly impregnated, is not useless, at the north end of Stammergate.

As early as 1736, the disadvantages of the inland position of Ripon, induced an enterprising party to attempt to render a portion of the River Ure navigable, and to form a canal from thence hither,

at a period when such projects were but little regarded. After much discouragement, they succeeded in this undertaking by the aid of the celebrated Smeaton, and under the provisions of an act of Parliament obtained in 1767. The management was originally vested in Commissioners, but this system being unsatisfactory, another act was obtained in 1820, whereby the proprietors became a body corporate by the name and style of "The Company and Proprietors of the River Ure Navigation to Ripon." Under the provisions of an act of Parliament, which received the royal assent July 25th, 1845, the interests and property of this Corporation were transferred to the Leeds and Thirsk Railway Company.

According to the enumeration made on the 31st of March, 1851, there were in Ripon and the appurtenant township of Bondgate, 1513 houses, and 6160 inhabitants, being an increase of 2453 inhabitants since the census of 1801.





STUDLEY HALL.

STUDLEY ROYAL.

In shadier bower
 More sacred and sequester'd, though but feigned,
 Pan or Sylvanus never slept, nor Nymph,
 Nor Faunus haunted.

MILTON. PAR. LOST, B. 4. 705.

IN agreeable stroll through our western suburb, and the wooded copses that rise in gentle undulation from the banks of the Laver beyond, prepares our transition to the far-famed scenes of Studley Royal. A volume would be insufficient to discuss the diversified beauties with which it abounds ; and the utmost that can be attempted here is to state facts that may be useful to the inquiring eye, and become a memorial for the retrospective mind.

For five centuries, the families of Aleman, Le Gras, Tempest, and Mallory, each of which produced men eminent and useful in their generation, enjoyed, successively, a domain which the potency of their neighbours forbade them to enlarge ; and found in their deep meads and waving woods, a quiet and simple enjoyment, which

until the dawn of the eighteenth century was not deemed capable of being transmuted to that source of intellectual gratification, in which countless thousands have since participated. John Aislabie, who from the rank of a country gentleman raised himself, by the vigour of his intellect, to the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer, was then possessed of Studley Royal in right of his mother, Mary, the eldest daughter and co-heiress of Sir John Mallory, an heroic and loyal knight. He saw the rare beauties that nature offered in profusion around his ancestral home, and, after he had exchanged the tumult of the political arena, for the sincerer pleasures and occupations of a country life, nobly and energetically devoted himself to their development. The little copses that surrounded the antique manor house were changed into an extensive park; diverging avenues supplanted intersecting hedge rows, the beck was expanded in a lake, the mansion was fashioned into correspondence with its noble accompaniments; and lastly, but chiefest of all, a portion of the little valley of the Skell, that intersected his park, was transformed into a most delectable pleasure ground. William Aislabie, his only son, enjoyed the leisure of a long life in maintaining and extending what his father had done. His eldest co-heir, Mrs. Allanson, was precluded, by the delicacy of her health, from residing at Studley; and on her decease, in 1808, it devolved, with the rest of her extensive possessions, on her niece and heir, Mrs. Lawrence, the late most benevolent proprietress; than whom none could have tended them with a more liberal and faithful hand. On the decease of Mrs. Lawrence, in July, 1845, the whole of the estate at Studley became vested, by the provisions of her will, in the Right Hon. the Earl de Grey, one of whose ancestors married a sister of the Chancellor Aislabie.

After passing through the village of Studley, and arriving at the PARK LODGE, the eye is restrained from excursion into the woodlands by a noble AVENUE OF LIMES, above a mile in length, that guides our path and directs the eye to AN OBELISK, whence the towers of Ripon and Fountains may be seen in conjunction, with many other interesting and more distant objects. THE MANSION HOUSE, which retains a fragment as early as the fifteenth century, may be seen whilst rising the hill, at some distance on the right; but it is not shown to visitors. Comfort and convenience have been sought in its several alterations, rather than grandeur and effect; but the home where so much talent and worth, for centuries, reposed, has not yet needed such a distinction, nor will cease to be

invested with a deep interest, so long as the purest benevolence and philanthropy shall command the homage of mankind.

Midway the Park, we diverge to the left, down a BEECHEN AVENUE to the little valley of the Skell, where the stream, conducted by a formal cascade with all due accompaniment of balcony and turret, expands into a LAKE covering twelve acres. A number of domestic fowls enliven its expanse with their gambols and evolutions, while anon

"The Swan, with arched neck
Between her white wings mantling, proudly rows
Her state with oary feet."

The banks rise swiftly from the water's edge, clothed with dense woods, through whose commingled beech and chesnut shade we reach the gates; where guides are in attendance from the hour of seven in the morning until that of five in the evening.

The disposition of the grounds may be easily perceived. The original design of the Chancellor Aislabe, who commenced operations about 1720, aided by his skilful gardener, Mr. William Fisher, was to contract the devious beck into a level parallelogramic canal, adorned with statues on its terraced banks, and bounded by dense hedges of evergreen which sheltered an ample alley, whence, through openings artfully contrived, a diversity of prospects could be obtained. A prudent and judicious respect for the old arrangement is still preserved, but modified so as not to offend modern hypercriticism by its antiquated state. The extreme contraction of the valley, and the proportionate inclination of its declivity, favoured the design, and allowed the extension of walks through the luxuriant thickets above, whence a new and more extensive series of prospects could be obtained, and more natural beauties developed. An interchange of scenery from a few hundred yards on each side of the river (crossed then, as now, at the rustic bridge) was thus, with the upper walks on the right, all that the adjacent demesne of Fountains allowed the projector to obtain; but when his son, who, wisely relying on his own ability, often declined the officious offers of Kent and Brown, purchased the Abbey, he continued the walk from below Anne of Boleyn's seat, up the southern bank of the circling stream, and after circumventing that

"Noble wreck in ruinous perfection,"

brought it down the opposite side of the valley, and so joined the

old decorated grounds at Tent Hill, where he erected a temple, long since fortunately destroyed.

With this rough outline we will proceed. After leaving the gates, shrouded in lofty and luxuriant trees and evergreens of stately growth, that remind us, especially when looking towards the balcony of the lake, of the incomparable Versailles, and many a delectable but ever-banished scene of our own "fair good lande," a bank of closely-shaven laurel first meets the eye, that would wander more willingly up a long and solemn glade that diverges from the valley called KENDALL'S WALK. From some invisible cause, few seem to have the agility to vault over the little bushes in front, in a manner equally satisfactory to themselves and their companions.

By the side of one of those gigantic beeches, whose altitude is forgot while passing under their grateful shade, we have a glance of the OCTAGON TOWER rising abruptly on the other side of the valley; and, by the water below, a cast in lead of two CONTENDING GLADIATORS.

Still passing behind the dense wall of yew, with its lofty canopy, we are surprised by a prospect, set in a verdant frame, of the valley in its widest part; the TEMPLE OF PIETY in the opposite encircling wood; the MOON AND CRESCENT PONDS, and their accompanying statues of NEPTUNE, BACCHUS, and GALEN.

Our embowered path ends by the BATHING HOUSE, a little rustic building of two wings, one containing the Pool, the other the appurtenant dressing-room. For many years a colony of bees have taken up their abode in the roof, and will be observed entering by the chinks of the slates.

The uninformed lover of nature, as well as the scientific observer, will alike gladly halt on the declining lawn to view the noble trees that tower aloft before them in wonderful procerity and beauty. A NORWAY SPRUCE FIR, near the walk, and straight to the top, displays luxuriance seldom equalled but in its native land. It is 132 feet high, $12\frac{1}{2}$ feet in circumference above its roots, and would form an impervious shade to an assembly of at least fifty persons. Another fir nearer the canal, which canopies the statue of the Dying Gladiator, is 11 feet 2 inches in circumference, and equally symmetrical as its companion, which being more disengaged claims readier attention. A third, near the last, is but 8 feet in circumference. None of these, however, should disengage the eye from a HEMLOCK SPRUCE, of most graceful form and foliage, the stem of which has attained the height of 60, and the circumference of 7 feet. These

trees having been planted by the Chancellor Aislabie, about 1720, may be a useful criterion in estimating the growth of their species.

The antique arrangement is now for awhile unperceived, and the murmur of falling waters attracts the eye from the parterres, and evergreens, and groves that adorn the declivity, across which we now proceed towards the unruffled stream that flows from a cavern o'ercanopied with dense and luxuriant beech.

The old "peeps" are soon resumed, and the first is a surprise, across a declining bank of laurel and yew overhung with more graceful foliage, down the long canal, and so to the great lake in the park—the Moon and Crescent Ponds, with their several terraces and statues filling the bosom of the valley on the right, and the Octagon Tower rising in the mid distance from a clump of firs. Soon after, we have another diversion through the laurels towards the statues of HERCULES AND ANTEUS in contention, in the most contracted pass of the dell; and a pillared DOME in the hanging woods beyond.

Diverging, reluctantly, from the path rising through the woods towards the Abbey, but still canopied by

" A covert of old trees, with trunks all hoar,
But light leaves young as joy,"

we cross, to the opposite side of the valley, over a RUSTIC BRIDGE, where the stream is seen, gliding tranquilly through a verdant space adorned with terraces, and begirt with ancient trees. But, before we reach the other side of the valley, we stray into a wooded amphitheatre, filled with a translucent LAKE, whose refreshing expanse, crisped by the circling breeze, mirrors but the embrowned shades of accliving woods, and the airy forms of an inconstant sky.

Anon, and the eye that will be gladdened by nothing but Nature naked and unadorned, will peer joyfully through the thicket on an irregular pool, where circumambient boughs image their glistening spray, and lave in waters that seem black and bottomless as oblivion. It is called "QUEBEC," and on its little island is a PILLAR to the memory of the gallant Wolfe, now hid in the tangled foliage.

A few steps more and the expanse of the valley, in all its formality, yet, perhaps, in all its peculiar beauty, opens upon us near the Temple that rises in the grove by our side. The chief apartment being adorned with a mural basso-relievo of a female nourishing her captive father from her breast, the building is named the "TEMPLE

OF PIETY." The bronze busts in the niches below contrast the characteristic heads of Titus and Nero.

Awhile, and the scene which has been so airy and vivid is suddenly changed. Striking aside from the lawn into the wood, we wind up a toilsome path—by the sides of which, yews of no recent growth are rooted in the fissures of the shelving crag—and enter, at length, a subterranean PASSAGE, hewn, partially, in the rock. It seems neither long enough nor dark enough for the majority of its youthful visitants, but a local difficulty was thus pleasantly overcome.

From the "OCTAGON TOWER," which during our ramble we have often seen, and now reached at last, we have a bird's-eye view of many of the objects we have visited. Studley Hall, too, is seen on the right; and, from the opposite window, HOW HILL,* with its mimic tower, rears its majestic head, begirt with verdurous shade.

Though now passing a long and artless avenue of beech, unfortunately mingled with the grisly fir, we seem to tread the woodland slopes of the park, and are gladdened, through the slanting boughs, by its lowing herds and coursing groups of agile deer; we turn again, ere long, down a lofty aisle

"Of beechen green, and shadows numberless,"

where the fitful murmur of the rushing stream reminds us of our elevated position. An opening towards the Park presents a view of MORKERSHAW LODGE; and another, of the ROMAN MONUMENT, impending high above the Skell. At length, we turn on the opposite side to a circular pillared dome, jutting into the valley, dedicated to Fame, and on all other sides similarly difficult of access.

Pursuing hence the ample path, which noble oaks "high over arch'd embower," snatching, nevertheless, through the airy spray, occasional glimpses of the coming "Fountain dale," the guide, with innocent triumph, will, at last, throw open the doors of "ANNE

* This hill, which rises in a conical form sufficiently high to form a remarkable object at the distance of more than twenty miles, is worthy of a visit from those whose time is not limited, and would consider themselves repaid by an almost boundless view of the great plain of York. It was anciently called Herleshow, as probably from being the place where the Saxon Earl of the county held his Court, as from its early possession by one who bore the name of Herle. The monks of Fountains had on the top of this hill a Chapel dedicated to St. Michael, which from an inscription walled into the present little tower, erected by Mr. Aislaby in 1718, appears to have been rebuilt or repaired by Abbot Huby, between 1494 and 1526.

encountered Robin Hood, whom, as the old ballad goes, he at length threw into the Skell, and so grievously belaboured, that Robin, for once, turned coward, and called in the aid of his fifty stalwart yeomen ; also that then the Friar whistled out as many of his good ban-dogs, but that Little John let his arrows fly so fast among them that the Friar, who

“ Had kept Fountain-dale,
Seven long years and more,”

was brought to his senses and a truce. Before we reach the Abbey, we shall be seduced to halt on a shady knoll ; and while reclining by the crystal WELL that still bears the Outlaw's name, may chant the “ Rime of Robin Hod ” in one of the sweetest spots associated with his name.

Tradition points to a large bow and arrow, graven on the north-east angle of the Lady Chapel, as a record of this dire affray. They bear no affinity to the symbols used by the masons, but have, I fancy, induced the report, mentioned by Ritson, that Robin's bow and arrow were preserved at Fountains Abbey.

FOUNTAINS ABBEY.



ALTHOUGH we have, some time ago, entered within the Close, we now pass into the immediate precinct of the Abbey, and feel at once disclosed “ a captivating scene of landscape and architectural beauty, a highly-interesting subject of contemplation, and a source of that pensive and pleasing melancholy in which the mind sometimes loves to indulge.” Before, however, we proceed to a particular survey of the structure, it will be necessary to premise a few facts illustrative of its origin and history.

The site of the Monastery was granted, in 1132, by Thurstan, Archbishop of York, out of his Liberty of Ripon, “ to certain monks who had separated themselves from what they deemed the lax discipline of the Benedictine Abbey of St. Mary, in York, and resolved to adopt the Cistercian rule, which was then becoming famous from the reputed sanctity and daring enthusiasm of

St. Bernard. Richard the Prior, with the sub-Prior, ten monks of St. Mary's, and Robert, a monk of Whitby, retired, in the depth of winter, to this secluded and, at that period, wild and uncultivated dell, where their territory was defined by the Archbishop, who had previously maintained them in his house. At first, their only shelter was under the impending rocks; but, after a while, they thatched an enclosure under an umbrageous elm, in the middle of the valley, which was even flourishing at the dissolution of the Abbey. Some yew-trees, also, near the ruin, are traditionally said to have sheltered these enthusiastic men. Having endured for two years such hardship as at length to subsist on boiled leaves and herbs, they prevailed on St. Bernard to remove them to one of the granges of his Abbey of Clairvaux, in Champagne; but the sudden accession of great wealth not only diverted them from their purpose, but laid the foundation of that magnificence of which such ample testimonies remain."

The history of the Abbey is minutely related in the "Monasticon," from the narrative of Hugh, a monk of Kirkstall; written between the years 1225 and 1247, at the request of John, Abbot of Fountains, from the dictation of the venerable monk, Serlo, who was present at the departure of the brotherhood from St. Mary's, at York, and had witnessed most of the chequered scenes he has so pathetically and graphically recorded. Yet, as he was more anxious to recount the spiritual trials and triumphs of his brethren than the secular history of their house, we find few allusions to the progress of the structure, or to the scientific acquirements of those by whom it was promoted. We learn, however, that after the election of the Abbot, Henry Murdac, to the See of York, about 1146, some partisans of his deposed predecessor, disappointed in their expectation of finding Murdac here, set fire to the Monastery, which, with half of "the Oratory," was consumed. The convent, aided by the neighbouring gentry, immediately repaired an injury which, however extensive, had doubtless been confined to the inflammable portions of the building; but, since every part of it had been erected within fourteen years, existing remains cannot aid us in the investigation. During the remainder of the twelfth century, the work of building never can have ceased, though it is probable, from our knowledge of the characters of the Abbots Fastolph, and his successor, Robert, that in their time it progressed with unusual vigour. On the decease of Ralph, the seventh Abbot, in 1203—a period when there was such an unusual number of monks in the house, that there was

no fitting place for the performance of their devotions—John, his successor, a stout-hearted Yorkshireman, who maintained in the retirement of the cloister the politic temper of the world, projected the erection of a choir, to the astonishment—nay, the indignation—of his contemporaries. He lived only to lay the foundation and raise some pillars, but he left a kindred spirit in John Pherd, who succeeded him in 1211, and after a diligent superintendence of eight years was elected Bishop of Ely. The Convent then availed themselves of the ability of another John, a Kentish man, who, with a vigour of mind like that of the original projector, brought the design to a conclusion. He not only instituted the nine altars, and added a “painted pavement,” but, in prosecution of an original project, constructed the southern part of the great cloister, and built the Infirmary, with the Hospitium, or house of entertainment for strangers, on the south side of the first court. He died in 1247, having probably seen the buildings of the Abbey nearly completed. “A period of subsequent poverty and distress was followed by great prosperity in the next century. Many persons of power and opulence purchased, by large donations, a sepulture within the walls of the Abbey. Favoured by popes, kings, and prelates, with various immunities and privileges, and enriched by a succession of princely gifts, Fountains Abbey became one of the wealthiest monasteries in the kingdom. The church ranked amongst the fairest structures of the land, and the possessions attached to it comprehended a vast extent, embracing the country from the foot of Pennigent to the boundaries of St. Wilfrid, of Ripon, an uninterrupted space of more than thirty miles. Besides many other wide domains, the lands in Craven contained, in a ring fence, a hundred square miles, or sixty thousand acres, on a moderate computation.”

After obtaining a high reputation for sanctity, and the possession of great power and immense wealth, the Monastery was surrendered by deed, enrolled 26th November, 1539, by Marmaduke Bradley, the thirty-third Abbot, and Suffragan Bishop of Hull; a man who, by the character of “the wysyste monke within Inglonde of that cote, well lernede, and a welthie felowe,” was recommended to Cromwell by the visitors, Layton and Legh, to fill the office which Abbot Thirsk, whom they thought “a varra fole, and a miserable ideote,” had privately resigned into their hands. Bradley had then an annuity of 100*l.*, Thomas Kydde, the Prior, another of 8*l.*, and the thirty monks who were priests, allowances of a similar nature, varying in value from 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* to 5*l.* each; the whole amounting

to 277*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*; an acknowledgment, certainly liberal, of their interest in the estates of the Abbey, which in 1535 had been certified to the Commissioners to be worth 998*l.* 6*s.* 7½*d.* annually, including the tenths. These terms, however, from the changed value of money, the nature of tenures, and many other causes, have now become difficult of interpretation; and a juster idea of the nature and extent of the establishment of the Convent may be formed from the fact, that, at the time of the dissolution, they possessed 1976 head of cattle, 1106 sheep, 86 horses, and 79 swine. They had also stored in their granges at Sutton, Morker, Haddockstanes, Swanley, and Brimham, 117 quarters of wheat, 13 of rye, 134 of oats, and 192 loads of hay, besides the temporary provision of 160 loads of hay, and 128 quarters of corn, which they had in the park and granaries of the Abbey.

Whilst the King found it politic to promise the application of the revenues of some of the Abbeys to their legitimate purpose of religion and education, the revenues of "Fontayne" and of the "Archdeconry off Rychemond" were assigned for the endowment of a Bishopric of Lancaster; but his evil genius prevailed, and, on the 1st of October, 1540, he sold the site of the Abbey, with its franchises, and the greater part of its estates, to Sir Richard Gresham, father of the munificent founder of the Royal Exchange.

From Gresham's representatives, who had previously alienated the extensive estates in Craven, the site of the Abbey, with its privileges, some of its adjacent granges, and a considerable tract of land in Nidderdale, were sold, in 1597, to Sir Stephen Procter of Warsell, an ambitious and speculative character, who pulled down the Abbot's house and the minor offices of the Abbey, to obtain materials for the noble house which he built near the west gate. His family having been burthened, after his decease, by his pecuniary embarrassment, the property was sold by his widow, in 1623, to Sir Timothy Whitingham, from whom it passed, two years afterwards, to Humphrey Wharton, Esq., of Gillingwood. From him it was purchased, in 1627, by Richard Ewens of South Cowton, Esq., whose daughter and heiress carried it into the family of Messenger of Newsham, who resided at Fountains Hall until John Michael Messenger, Esq., in 1768, sold the Abbey, with its franchises and a small estate, for 18,000*l.*, to William Aislabie, Esq., of Studley, maternal grandfather to Mrs. Lawrence, the late possessor, and nephew to the ancestress of the present owner, the Right Hon. the Earl de Grey.

Before the excavation of the Abbot's House*—undertaken by Lord

* The following is the succession of the Abbots of Fountains. For facility of reference to inscriptions and records, the enumeration used by the monks themselves is adopted; but it must be observed that it excludes Maurice and Thorald, who, I presume, were only deputies to Archbishop Murdac, and also Alyngs, Otley, Thornton, and Frank.

| NO. | ABBOTS' NAMES. | PERIOD OF ABBACY. | WHERE BURIED. | HOW VACANT. |
|-----|--|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Richard, ex-Prior of St. Mary's, York . . . | 1132—1139 | At Rome . . . | Death. |
| 2 | Richard . . . | 1139—1143 | Clarevall . . . | Death. |
| 3 | Henry Murdac, elected Archbishop of York . . . | 1143—1153? | York Cathedral . . . | Death? |
| | Maurice of Rivaux . . . | About 3 mths | | Resignation. |
| | Thorold of Rivaux . . . | About 2 yrs | | Resignation. |
| 4 | Richard Fastolph, Prior of Clarevall . . . | 1153—1170 | Chap. H. Fountains | Death. |
| 5 | Robert, Abbot of Pipewell . . . | 1170—1179 | Chapter House F. | Death. |
| 6 | William, Abbot of Newminster . . . | 1179—1190 | Chapter House F. | Death. |
| 7 | Ralph Haget . . . | 1190—1203 | Chapter House F. | Death. |
| 8 | John de Ebor. . . | 1203—1211 | Chapter House F. | Death. |
| 9 | John Pherd, afterwards Bishop of Ely . . . | 1211—1219 | Ely Cathedral . . . | Promotion. |
| 10 | John de Cancia . . . | 1220—1247 | Chapter House F. | Death. |
| 11 | Stephen de Eston. . . | 1247—1252 | Chapter H. Vaudy | Death. |
| 12 | William de Allerton . . . | 1252—1258 | Chapter House F. | Death. |
| 13 | Adam . . . | 1258—1259 | Chapter House F. | Death. |
| 14 | Alexander . . . | 1259—1265 | Chapter House F. | Death. |
| 15 | Reginald . . . | 1265—1274 | Chapter House F. | Death. |
| | Peter Alyngs . . . | 1275—1279 | Chapter House F. | Res. or Dep. |
| 16 | Nicholas . . . | 6 months | Chapter House F. | Death. |
| 17 | Adam Ravensworth . . . | 1280—1284 | Chapter House F. | Death. |
| | Henry Otley . . . | 1284—1289 | Chapter House F. | Resignation? |
| | Robert Thornton . . . | 1289 | Chapter House F. | Resignation? |
| 18 | Richard Bishopton . . . | 1289—13 $\frac{10}{11}$ | Chapter House F. | Death. |
| 19 | William Rigton . . . | 1311—1316 | Chapter House F. | Death. |
| 20 | Walter Coxwold . . . | 1316—1336 | Chapter House F. | Resignation. |
| 21 | Robert Copgrove . . . | 1336—134 $\frac{2}{3}$ | Chapter House F. | Death. |
| 22 | Robert Moukton . . . | 1346—1369 | The Church F. . . | Death. |
| 23 | William Gower, B.D. . . | 1369—1383 | Lady Chapel F. . . | Resignation. |
| 24 | Robert Burley . . . | 1383—1410 | Choir Fountains . . | Death. |
| | Roger Frank, intruder . . | 1410—1414 | | Expulsion. |
| 25 | John Ripon . . . | 1414—143 $\frac{4}{5}$ | Nave of Church F. | Death. |
| 26 | Thomas Passelew . . . | 143 $\frac{4}{5}$ —1442 | Nave of Church F. | Resignation. |
| 27 | John Martin . . . | Seven weeks | Nave of Church F. | Death. |
| 28 | John Greenwell, D.D. . . | 1442—1471 | | |
| 29 | Thomas Swinton . . . | 1471—1479 | | Resignation. |
| 30 | John Darnton . . . | 1479—149 $\frac{2}{4}$ | | |
| 31 | Marmaduke Huby . . . | 1494—1526 | | Death. |
| 32 | William Thirsk, B.D. . . | 1526—153 $\frac{7}{7}$ | | Resignation. |
| 33 | Marmaduke Bradley . . . | 153 $\frac{6}{7}$ —1539 | | Resignation. |

de Grey—a visitor, approaching the Abbey from the garden, was unable to see the greater part of the outside, before he was conducted through the interior of the building. This inconvenience has recently been very judiciously obviated by the direction of the path along the kitchen bank on the south side, where, from its elevated position, hitherto buried in brushwood and rubbish, by far the most picturesque views of the building are not only obtained, but also a bird's-eye view or synoptical idea of the plan and relative position of the apartments, before proceeding to a particular survey.

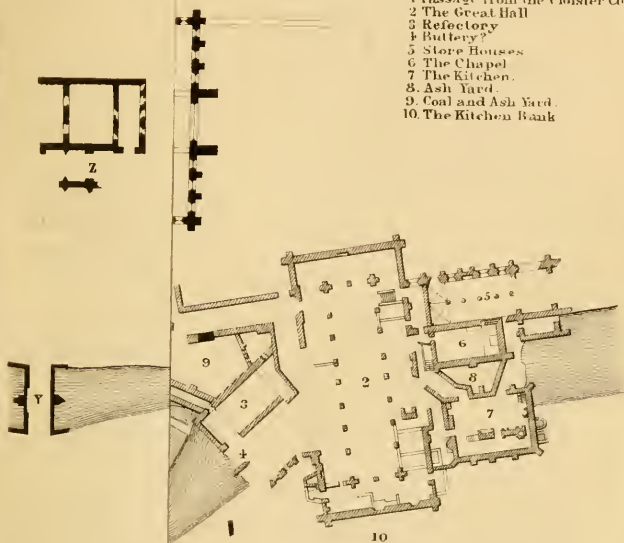
On leaving, therefore, Robin Hood's Well, and rising immediately above the recently discovered foundations of the Abbot's House and domestic offices of the Abbey, we see the several parts of the conventual church, Lady chapel, choir, transept, tower, and nave, successively developed; nearer us—and parallel with the south end of the transept—the chapter house, distinguished by the double tier of round-headed windows; next, but placed in a contrary direction towards the river, comes the Frater-house. After that the kitchen, with its tall chimney, and the court-house above. Then the refectory, with its graceful lancet lights; then, receding to the cloister-court, the buttery and its little garth; and, lastly, in connection with the main structure, the vast range of the dormitory above the cloisters, stretching nearly from our feet to the nave of the church. Turning in a contrary direction, we may observe, on the slope of the hill above, a part of the wall which bounded the site* of the Monastery; the intermediate broken ground having been chiefly occupied by the COMMON STABLE, GUESTS' STABLE, BARNS, KILNS, TAN-HOUSE, BARK-MILL, DOVE-COTES, FORGE, and other similar offices. Of these, the MILL—to which large granaries were formerly annexed—is alone left entire, and will be observed immediately before us, shrouded in tall trees, and running on, merrily, as in days of yore.

On a little knoll, above the mill, stands the remnant of the YEW TREES, that are said, by tradition, to have sheltered the monks before the erection of the Abbey; which, in some measure, they

* The walled close of the Abby, which was a parish of itself, contained above thirty acres. Of these the site of the building, with its orchard, gardens, and several adjacent garths, occupied, at the dissolution, twelve acres on the north side of the Skell; the rest, which lay on the south side, was divided into the East Applegarth, in which was a fish-pond; three West Applegarths of twelve acres; and the Kitchen bank of three acres, covered with brushwood. But besides the close, there was on its south-west side a pleasant park of above two hundred acres, of which the better half was covered by woods and fish-ponds. It still retains its name, and, though divided into farms, much of its ancient and picturesque character.

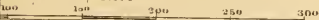
THE ABBOT'S HOUSE.

- 1 Passage from the Cloister Court
- 2 The Great Hall
- 3 Refectory
- 4 Buttery?
- 5 Store Houses
- 6 The Chapel
- 7 The Kitchen.
- 8 Ash Yard.
- 9 Coal and Ash Yard.
- 10 The Kitchen Bank



Ground Plan between
The Parts subsequent
Foundations still

Scale of Feet



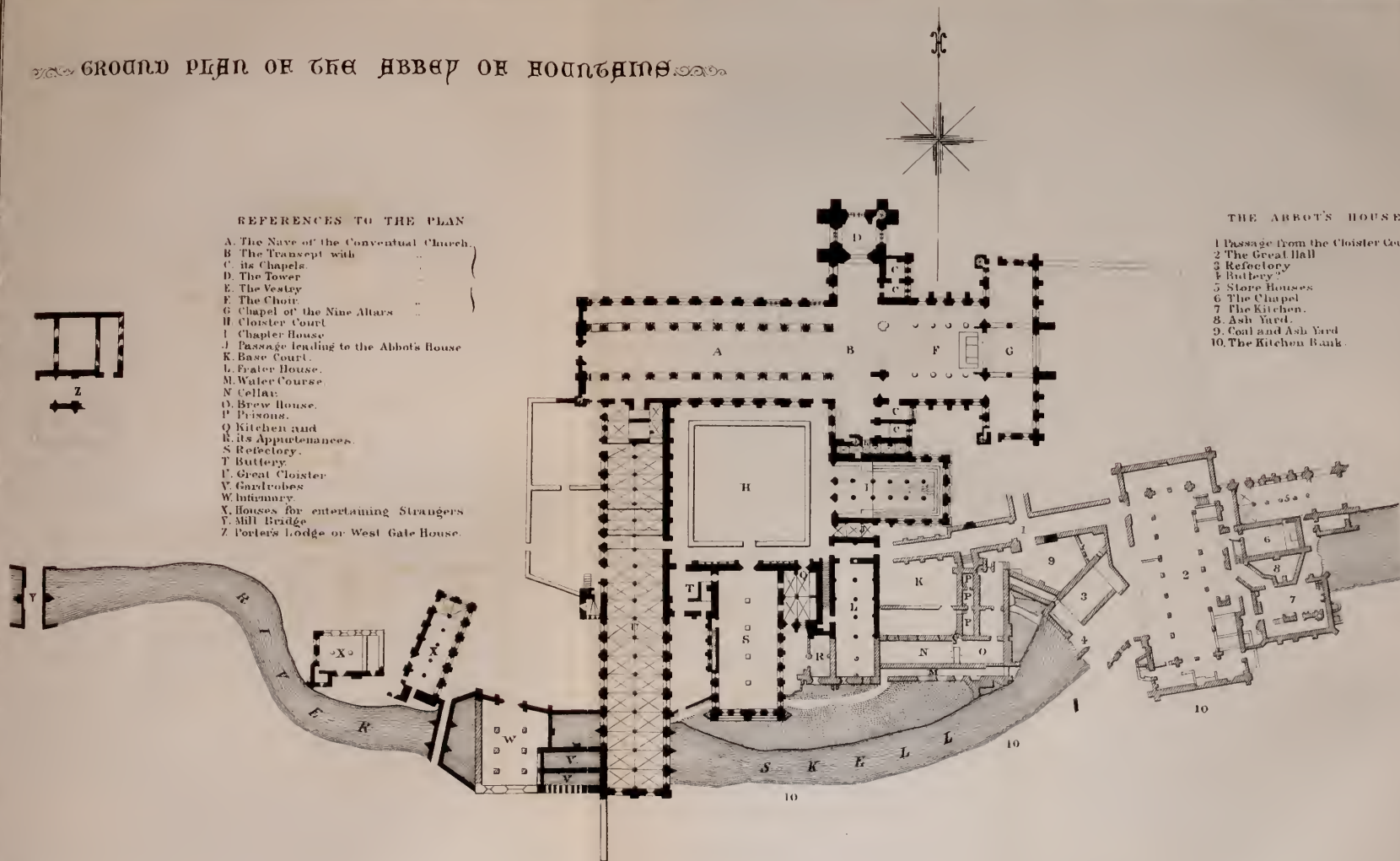
GROUND PLAN OF THE ABBAY OF FOUNTAINS

REFERENCES TO THE PLAN

- A. The Nave of the Conventual Church.
- B. The Transept with
- C. its Chapels.
- D. The Tower.
- E. The Vestry.
- F. The Choir.
- G. Chapel of the Nine Altars.
- H. Cloister Court.
- I. Chapter House.
- J. Passage leading to the Abbot's House.
- K. Base Court.
- L. Frater House.
- M. Water Course.
- N. Cellar.
- O. Brew House.
- P. Prisons.
- Q. Kitchen and
- R. its Appurtenances.
- S. Refectory.
- T. Buttery.
- U. Great Cloister.
- V. Gardrobes.
- W. Whitnary.
- X. Houses for entertaining Strangers.
- Y. Mill Bridge.
- Z. Porter's Lodge or West Gate House.

THE ABBOT'S HOUSE.

- 1. Passage from the Cloister Court.
- 2. The Great Hall.
- 3. Refectory.
- 4. Buttery.
- 5. Store Houses.
- 6. The Chapel.
- 7. The Kitchen.
- 8. Ash Yard.
- 9. Coal and Ash Yard.
- 10. The Kitchen Bank.



Ground Plan before the Excavation begun in Nov^r 1848 represented thus. —
 The Parts subsequently discovered & before June 1851 — Dr. —
 Foundations still buried — Do —

Scale of Feet
 0 10 20 30 40 50 100 150 200 250 300

W Monkhouse, Lith. York

may be said to have survived. Their original number is forgot. From the appellation of "the Seven Sisters," by which the trees are always known, they may not have lately exceeded that number; though one of coeval antiquity stands at the south end of the Abbey bridge near the mill. Dr. Burton, writing in 1757, remembered seven trees, but remarked that one of them had been blown down a few years before. One, and the greater part of another, fell in the great gale of the 7th of January, 1839. Another rears but a withered sapless trunk. The rest vegetate with astonishing vigour, and last year bore their accustomed supply of berries; though their giant stems are but mouldering skeletons.

Candolle, deriving his information from Pennant, who stated, that in 1770 one of them was 1214 lignes in diameter, supposes that they were then upwards of twelve centuries old; but, as we cannot ascertain when they ceased to expand, and the process of decomposition commenced, this computation probably falls far short of their actual age. The tortuosity of their rifted boles forbids an accurate measurement, but one of them is at least 25 feet in circumference.

Immediately on crossing the Skell by a picturesque bridge, built in the thirteenth century, we come to the Gate-House,* now reduced indeed to a mere fragment, but bearing, in the traces of the apartments on each side, abundant testimony of its former magnitude and importance.

The two gabled ruins, passed soon after entering what was

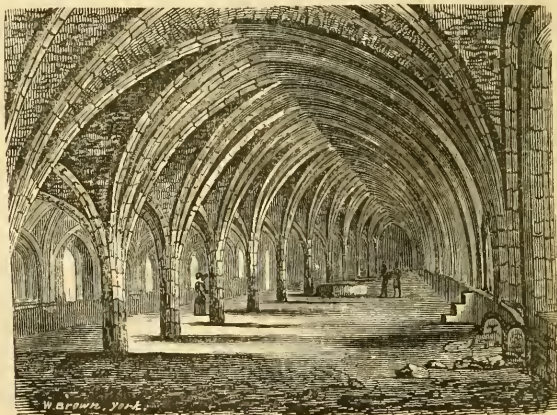
* At this point, however brief the time at the visitor's disposal may be, he should turn aside a few paces to FOUNTAINS HALL, which is not generally included in the guide's route, unless requested. It stands at a very short distance from the Abbey gate, on the side of a densely wooded and precipitous declivity, and was built by Sir Stephen Procter of Warsell, in the time of King James I., at an expense of 3000*l.*, though he ruthlessly quarried his stone from the walls of the Abbey. Its venerable aspect, however, accords so well with the scenery, that it mitigates "the regret with which the antiquary would otherwise contemplate so wide a scale of spoliation." The chief front sleeping in a summer's sun, with its picturesque gables and balcony, and statues, and glistening

"Bay windows, goodly as may be thought,"

is peculiarly imposing and beautiful. The arrangement of the principal apartments is still undisturbed; but they contain nothing remarkable, except the dining-room, which is hung with tapestry, representing the Rape of Proserpine, Jupiter and Ganymede, and Vulcan receiving directions from Thetis about the making of armour for Achilles. In the Hall also—now called the Chapel—is a sculpture over the fireplace, of the Judgment of Solomon, and in its great embayed window, the armorial bearings of the Procters and their connexions, displayed in confused and fast-fading glass. Over the chief entrance to the house, are the crests of Sir Stephen and Honor his wife, and between them a motto, difficult of application, at least, to his secular condition.

formerly called the first court, appear to have been the *HOSPITIUM*, which, in the records of the Abbey, is said to have been built by the Abbot, John de Cancia; though, either from the rule of the order enjoining a severe character of architecture, or the inferior consequence of the building, displays none of the scientific progress that was rapidly developed in his time. In the basement story of the eastern house, 73 feet long and 23 feet wide, and vaulted from a row of five pillars, is an apartment which may have been the dining-hall of the guests; and in the upper apartments of each, a domestic character is indicated by fire-places, with flues curiously constructed, in the gables.

To the east of these buildings stands a wall containing the chief doorway, and three upper windows of a structure built above the Skell, which may have been the Infirmary, erected also by John de Cancia. The other walls are destroyed; but on a recent excavation of such parts of the floor as had not fallen into the river, it was found to have had three aisles, divided by four arches on each side.



The main fabric of the Abbey now engages attention, and the *WEST CLOISTER*, being the nearest part of it, will, perhaps, be first entered. It is not less than 300 feet in length, but was built at two different periods; the upper portion, extending from the nave of the church to the porter's lodge, being of the same transition Norman character, very curiously shown in the buttresses; the rest, forming the ambulatory, or "*Novum Claustum*," built by

John de Cancia. Along the outside of the upper part, which was once divided into store-houses, has been a pent-house, communicating, like the cloister, by a large and handsome doorway with the church. The large octagonal stone basin, in the east aisle, has originally been a lavatory, but converted into a cider mill.

Above the cloisters, and extending its whole length, was the MONKS' DORMITORY, divided into forty cells by wooden partitions, which left a passage down the middle, lighted by a large window at the south end, and, by night, by a great cresset or lamp. At the south-west corner are the walls of two spacious gard-robcs, communicating with the dormitory, and placed conveniently above the river. The dormitory is still approached by the spacious and original stairs winding over the porter's lodge; but the staircase by which the monks descended to their nocturnal offices in the church, is unfortunately walled up.

THE NAVE.

The nave—a good plain example of the Transition Norman period—exhibits only, on each side, both of the clerestory and the aisles, a succession of eleven bays, divided by broad and shallow pilasters, and occupied by as many round-headed lights without shaft or moulding. On entering at the great western door, the effect is exceedingly solemn and impressive; the pointed arcade, resting on massy columns 20 feet high and 16 feet in circumference, without the relief of a triforium intervening between them and the plain splayed windows above. The great west window was introduced by Abbot Darnton, in the place of two or three plain Norman lights, surmounted probably by a round one in the gable, and has a gallery in the base, whence processions might be viewed. Above the outside of this window is a niche supported by the figure of a bird, holding a crosier, and perched on a tun, from which issues a label inscribed “*Drnn 1494.*” If the bird represents an eagle, it may, as the symbol of St. John, perhaps signify the Christian name of Darnton; but if the sculptor thus took leave to represent a thrush, a rebus on the name of the founder, Thurstan, was also intended.

Each bay of the aisles has been covered by a pointed but *transverse* vault, divided by semi-circular arches, of which the imposts are placed considerably lower than those of the pillars to which they

are attached. Nearly the whole of the eastern half of these aisles has been divided by lattices into chapels, of which there are some indications in the painted devices and matrices of their furniture, traceable on the piers. There has been, also, a screen across the nave at the seventh pillar eastward.

THE TRANSEPT.

The transept was built in the same transition period of architecture as the nave, but manifests so little progressive or pointed character, that it might have been considered, particularly outside, as pure Norman. At its intersection with the nave, was, originally, a tower, though elevated probably not more than one of its squares above the roof. All trace of it, however, is now lost, except a fragment of its arches, which has been pointed and moulded, at the south-east and north-west angles. It was, probably, the insecure condition of this tower, incapable of such considerable improvement as, unfortunately, was effected at Kirkstall, which led to the erection of the present magnificent substitute; since Abbot Huby was obliged to disfigure the transept by the erection of a massy buttress against its south-east pier, and also to construct an arch under that of the adjacent aisle of the Choir. The corbels of its hood mouldings display, on shields, Three Horse Shoes, the arms of the Abbey, and his initials, *ſH M.*, surmounted by a mitre enfiled by a crosier.

Two melancholy chapels, divided by a thick wall and covered with a barrel, but pointed, vault, abut on the east side of each wing of the transept, and occupy a space, which, if we may judge from the like arrangement at Kirkstall, would not have been transformed into the less monastic form of aisles, even at a more advanced architectural period. Their gloomy character has also been increased, at the north end, by walling up the arches of the transept in order to give increased stability to the new tower. In the chapel that adjoins it—dedicated, it appears from a mouldering inscription, to St. Peter—there has been placed, within recollection, under a broken monumental arch in the north wall, the effigy of a cross-legged warrior in chain-mail, bearing a shield, charged with a lion rampant, and said, by tradition, to represent the great Baron Roger de Mowbray, who died at Ghent in 1298, and was buried in this church. There is placed also in this chapel a sculptured tablet representing St. John, and another of an evangelist, undistinguished by a symbol,

found many years ago in the Abbey, but only recently retrieved from the building in which they had been subsequently walled.

The dedication of the next Chapel is shown to have been to St. Michael the Archangel, by a weather-beaten inscription over its entrance: *Altare s'ri michaelis arch'*. In its south wall—part of the original or first Choir—is a large, round-headed piscina, with a recess or locker in the side; and at the east end some faint indication of the wooden altar screen may be observed.

The South Chapels have been partitioned, by lattices, from the transept, and that adjoining the Choir has gained an entrance also from its aisle, in the Perpendicular period, when it was also briefly elongated and improved by the insertion of a large east window. The piscina has been of wood.

The next and last Chapel has been but recently cleared of the rubbish of its vault, which was re-set with most rigid attention to the original work. Sufficient remains of the tessellated pavement were found, during the excavation, to show that it had been of John de Cancia's time, as, indeed, may be inferred from the frag-



ments of the border still attached to the wall. Within the mutilated piscina—large and round-headed like that in the North Chapel

—has been recently placed a large sculptured tablet, representing the Annunciation of the Virgin, which had been removed from the Abbey, and walled into a neighbouring cottage. It is rude and late in style, but the conventional expression is worthy of observation. The inscription is the Salutation of Gabriel, *Aue maria plena d'n's trcu'*.

Near the entrance of this Chapel, is, also, placed part of the monumental slab of one of the Abbots. In its present inconvenient position, it is difficult to decipher the worn and mutilated circumscription; but from the occurrence of the word *robrtus*, and the character of the design, I presume, it has commemorated Robert Burley, the twenty-fourth Abbot, who died 13th of May 1410.

At the south end of the transept, and occupying the space between it and the Chapter-house, is the Vestry; a narrow and gloomy apartment, built at the same time as the Chapter-house, with which there was a communication, now walled up. Above it was the Sacristy, where a fine round-headed Lavatory was, recently, cleared from rubbish, with which the apartment is yet filled. It was approached, like the Library and Scriptorium over the Chapter-house, by the doorway in the south wall, which has now become partly inaccessible, in consequence of the destruction of the wooden stairs.

THE TOWER.

This majestic and scientific specimen of the Perpendicular style is placed at the end of the north transept, since its introduction could not have been, conveniently, effected on the site of the old tower, and, at the west end of the nave, would not have grouped as effectively with the chief buildings of the Monastery. It is composed in a grand and bold outline, unfrittered by minute detail, or elaborate decoration. The height is 166 feet 6 inches, and the internal area of the base about 25 feet. With the exception of the floors of the several chambers, pinnacles, glass, and the tracery of a single window, which fell out many years ago, the goodly structure remains as perfect, sound, and stable, as when the builders left it; and, for anything that appears to the contrary, will rear its noble head above the dell, and defy the storm, when many proud structures of to-day shall be crumbled to their base. On fillets above and below the belfry windows are inscriptions in the Tudor black letter, boldly relieved, and also round the top of the tower; but this series is so weather-beaten as to be illegible.

ON THE EAST SIDE.

Benedictio et caritas et sapientia [1] *et* [2] *gratiarum accio honor.*
Soli deo ihu x'po [3] *honor* [4] *et gl'ia in s'cla s'clor.*

NORTH SIDE.

Et virtus et fortitudo deo nostro [5] *in* [6] *secula seculorum amen.*
Soli deo ihu x'po honor et gl'ia in s'cla s'clor ame'.

WEST SIDE.

Regi autem seculorum [7 8] *immortali inuisili*
Soli deo ihu x'po honor et [9] *gl'ia* [10] *in s'cla s'clor.*

SOUTH SIDE.

Soli deo hour et gloria [11] *in* [12] *secula seculorum amen.*

The numerals introduced into this copy indicate the corresponding position of armorial shields in the inscriptions, thus charged :— 1, Three Horse-shoes, two and one, the arms of the Abbey ; 2, a Maunch, surmounted by a bend, Norton of Norton, Conyers, and Sawley ; 3, a Cross flory, between a Mitre and Key erect, in chief, and a Key erect and Mitre, in base ; 4, the arms of the Abbey, as the first ; 5 and 6, Norton, as before ; 7 and 8, the Abbey and Norton ; 9, as the third ; 10 and 11, the Abbey ; 12, Norton, and individually, perhaps, Sir John Norton, grandfather to old Richard, the memorable promoter of the “ Rising in the North.”

Above the lowest west window is an angel standing on the canopy of a vacant Niche, holding a shield, on which is carved a mitre enfiled with a crosier, and the letters *M. H.*, the initials of Marmaduke Huby. The date 1494, the year in which he was elected to the abbacy, is on the bracket of a niche above the basement window on the east side. In a niche on the north side is a crowned figure holding a pen in his right, and a book in his left hand ; in another above is a mitred figure sitting, holding a crosier ; and in one above the ridge of the transept roof a gowned but bare-headed effigy, no doubt of Huby, holding a crosier in his right, and a book in his left hand.

THE CHOIR.

The outer walls of the Aisles are of elegant and powerful design. Each bay contains, indeed, only one plain lancet light, but, as it is placed in the interior, under an arcade of one pointed, between two round-headed, members, a remarkable effect is produced by

the archivolt of its adjuncts ; which, resting one extremity on the single columns flanking the light, descend on the opposite side, with the curve of the groining, to a shaft, capped at an inferior elevation, and clustered with that which has carried the ribs of the vault. A very appropriate and picturesque effect is contributed also by the deeply recessed and trifoliated arcade which supports this arrangement, though it is now much diminished, by the absence of the grey marble shafts and the suppression of its base below the sward.

During a temporary excavation in 1840, the foundation of the rood-screen at the west end of the choir was observed ; and, within its porch, a marble gravestone, 9 feet 6 inches long, 4 feet 8 inches wide, and 7 inches thick. It had been richly inlaid with brass, and, no doubt, covered the Abbot, John de Ripon, who died at the Abbey Grange, at Thorpe Underwood, on the 12th of March, 1435, and is said, in the records of the Monastery, to have been buried before the entrance to the choir.

The tessellated pavement of the high altar is doubtless part of the "*pictum pavimentum*" that was bestowed on the church by Abbot John de Cancia between the years 1219 and 1247 ; and, therefore, an early and valuable example of this elegant mode of decoration. The simple patterns, divided in the upper and chief platform into three chief compartments, are formed of many-shaped tesserae of red, black, and yellow, which have been relaid, I am informed, with proper attention to the original design.

The reredos behind the high altar presented, both to the choir and Lady Chapel, but a continuation,—prolonged, also, for one bay or more on each side,—of that beautiful arcade which circumscribes the Lady Chapel and the choir. Part of its materials are now in a modern and obtrusive gallery, under the east window, and more of it will be found in the apartment now leading to the Court-room.

Not far from the north-west corner of the altar is a stone coffin, 6 feet 3 inches long, which is usually said to have contained the remains of Henry, Lord Percy, of Alnwick, who died in 1315. As, however, the herald Tong, who learned on his visit to the Abbey, in 1530, that he was buried "before the high auter," observed that "also in the said quere lyeth buried the Lord Mowbray," it is as probable that the coffin was covered by the effigy of Mowbray, now in the North Chapel, more particularly since it is remembered to have stood against the wall opposite to it.

THE LADY CHAPEL.

This most beautiful portion of the Abbey Church was completed by Abbot John de Cancia, who had superintended, probably, the greater part, if not the whole, of its erection. "This addition to ecclesiastical structures, though not common, is productive of great magnificence, for the eastern façade thus formed here extends 150 feet in length, and presents a specimen of Early English architecture—plain and somewhat massive in its general appearance, but with many well-proportioned details. Some additions which have been made to this portion of the Abbey are, however, as late as the end of the fifteenth century. The great east window and appurtenant buttresses display the magnificence of the latest style of Gothic architecture, which, guided by judgment and taste, are combined with the earlier style of the adjoining portions of the building. It had nine lights and a transom, but exhibits now a void space of 60 feet in height, and 23 feet 4 inches in width. The other, and original, windows of this front are adorned, outside and in the lower range, with banded shafts, and divided by semi-octangular and unusually massy buttresses.

Besides the east window, one of large dimensions, but plain detail, has been inserted, at the same period, in each gable of the Lady Chapel. Below that in the southern elevation, the keystone of one of the three Early English lights has received a SCULPTURE which shows these innovations to have been made in the time of Abbot Darnton, who presided over the house from 1478 to 1494. It is indeed a rebus on his name, displaying the bust of an angel holding a tun, with the word *Đern* inscribed on its breast. Above this is a large bird, apparently an eagle—as seen before above the nave—and a scroll, which bears the same allusive character in its legend, *B'n'd fontes d'no* (*Benedicite fontes Domino*). In the inside of the Chapel, the same keystone bears an angel holding a blank shield, a mitred head, and the figure of a pilgrim, or perhaps St. James of Compostella, standing on an encircled serpent, the emblem of eternity. The angular keystone of another lancet light, at the north-east angle, displays a head entwined with snakes,—a symbol of the Evil principle, or more particularly of Pride; and in the interior, the figure of an angel, holding a scroll, inscribed *Anno Domini 1483*.

On receding to either end of the Lady Chapel, the amplitude of its dimensions, the graceful, aspiring, heavenward tendency of its



component parts must captivate and astonish even a vulgar and careless mind. Not a little of its peculiar effect results from those lofty arches which span it in prolongation of the clere-story of the choir, sustained on each side only by an octagonal pillar, 2 feet 5 inches in diameter. Their cylindrical bases are, unfortunately, buried in rubbish; and much of the original effect is also lost by the destruction of the

marble shafts that enriched the angles, and were banded midway in the elevation.

In this transept or Chapel, nine altars were instituted by John de Cancia, but none of their dedications have, as yet, been ascertained. Their sites—divided either by lattices or wainscot—may, however, be traced by the indications of their wooden piscinas in the wall, and one, of stone, remaining at the south end, is a curious example of its age.

THE CLOISTER COURT.

From a door at the south-east angle of the nave, a few modern steps descend to a quadrangular court, formerly environed with a penthouse or cloister, of which a portion of the round-headed arcade remained in the last century. The north and west aisles were occupied, I believe, by the carrels where the monks studied, and the place where the novices were taught; the other must necessarily have been used as passages.

The area of the court—about 128 feet square—is still surrounded by the buildings of the Monastery. The north side is formed by the lofty walls of the Church. On the west, the Cloisters, surmounted by the Dormitory, stretch in one unbroken line. The Buttery, Refectory, and Kitchen flank the southern range; and on the east, the portals of the Chapter-house join the south Transept, which still, by its massy strength, retains its original elevation.

THE CHAPTER-HOUSE.

The Chapter-house, divided by the Sacristy from the north Transept, is of a date between it and the Early English Choir, but bears no local assimilation of style to any contemporary building of the Abbey. It is, indeed, I apprehend, judging from certain peculiarities of style and the magnificence of its dimensions, the work of Richard, the fourth Abbot, who had been previously Prior of Clarevall, in France, and may have brought or procured the design from that great head of the Cistercian houses. In size, it is little inferior to any rectangular Chapter-house in the kingdom, being 84 feet 7 inches long, by 41 feet wide; though a vestibule of inferior height, formed by the intervention of a wooden screen, has occupied 24 feet of the western extremity. The ten round marble columns that divided the area into three aisles, have been ruined to their bases; but the triple tier of benches, used by the Convent in their deliberations, still remain.

From the decease of Abbot Richard, in 1170, to that of Copgrove, in 1345, the Chapter-house was the invariable burial-place of the Abbots, except of Pherd and Eston, who died elsewhere; and during that period nineteen of them were interred here. These facts, partially communicated by Dr. Burton, in his "Monasticon," from a chartulary of the Abbey, led, in 1790, to the excavation of the apartment, when the following evidence of their particular graves was obtained.

Within the last bay eastward, are four coffins, laid side by side, that most probably have contained the remains of Abbot Richard Fastolph and his three immediate successors. Two of them have lost their proper slabs, the cover of another is uninscribed, and that of the last indicates only, in the sacred emblem ✠ incised on its head, that it covers one who preferred the expression of his dying faith to the remembrance or gratitude of posterity.

At their feet, and immediately below the seat where he so long and worthily presided, is this memorial of the great Abbot, John de Cancia, who died November 25th, 1247, inscribed, in Longobardic characters, on a ridged slab of grey marble :—

HI. REQIESCIT : DOMPNVS . JOH'S . X : ABBAS. DE FONTIBV.'
QVJ * OBIJT * VII KL * DECEMBRIS.

Close by the south side is a slab of similar character, but somewhat humbler dimension, on which the following inscription is said to have appeared on its discovery, though, in consequence of the heedless steps of visitors, such parts of it only as are inclosed by brackets can now be deciphered :—

[✠ HI]. REQI[ESCIT DOMPNVS] JOH'S X[II ABBAS DE
FONTIB' QI : OBIJT]

This reading was, however, certainly erroneous ; since, according to the enumeration used on the adjacent stone, supported by the records of the Abbey, William Allerton was the twelfth Abbot—and imperfect also, by the supplementary words, “qui obiit,” still visible. It commemorates, perhaps, John de Ebor., the eighth Abbot, who died June 14th, 1211.

A plain ridged gravestone on the south of the last, covers, I apprehend, the said Abbot Allerton, who died December 11th, 1258.

On a detached fragment, which has formed part of the tomb of the thirteenth Abbot, who died April 30th, 1259, are the words,

ADAM . XIII . ABBAS.

Near the middle of the room is a flat stone, from which, though now much shattered, has been rescued the following fragment—

. . . IES . . . S . . REG . . . S . . TES OCTO

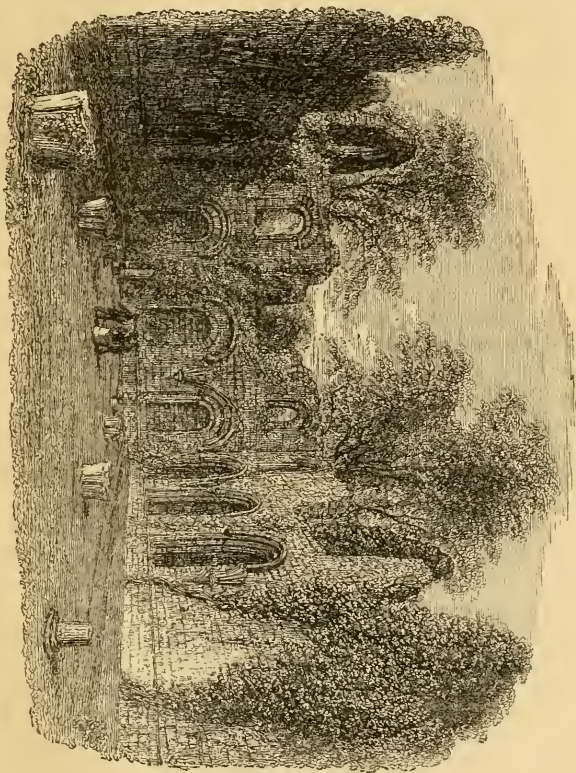
a portion, perhaps, of the memorial of Reginald, the fifteenth Abbot, who died October 27th, 1274.

Beside this, is a small marble slab, which, though much broken, retains the matrix of a figure that has held a crosier, and of a circumscription with corner pieces.

On the opposite side of the aisle is a stone that has had a similar design ; but so worn that the head of the crosier can only be distinctly traced. Here is also a fragment of another memorial, of the same date, and part of a plain-ridged stone of the thirteenth century.

The slab near the entrance may be placed over Abbot Otley, who died 24th Dec., 1290 ; though he is said, more particularly, to have been buried "in hostio Ca° de Fontibus."

INTERIOR OF THE CHAPTER HOUSE.



Above the Chapter-house, was the Library and Scriptorium, with other apartments, the extent of which is indicated on the outside of the south transept, which they joined, and from which they were approached.

The notes of Leland, who saw the Library just before the

Dissolution, do not suggest the idea that it was of that importance that was demanded, at least, by the wealth and high position of the house.* Several of its members in the first century after its foundation were learned men, and authors of considerable reputation;† but in after days, though several of the abbots were possessed of high intellectual attainments, the general literary character of the house was insufficiently maintained. The following sketches, selected at random from a book written in this



Scriptorium, may show, however, that it was occasionally tenanted by men not wholly deficient of sarcastic and graphic power of

* Collectanea, vol. iii, pp. 44, 45.

† See Leland de Script., vol. i, pp. 232, 235, 245. Pitseus de Rebus Angl. vol. i., pp. 216-217. Bale, Script. Illust. c. ii. p. 198.

expression. The middle figure is that of a knight who had a law-suit with the Convent.

South of the Chapter-house is a groined-passage, of the same date, leading to the Base Court, and the alley or cloister communicating with the Abbot's House.

Next and last, in the Eastern range of the Cloister, and entered by a doorway which still bears traces of painted enrichments of the Early English mouldings, is the FRATER-HOUSE, a fine vaulted apartment of transition Norman work, 104 ft. long, and 29 ft. wide. The rude, headless figure of a monk, that stands near the north wall, was found, several years ago, during a partial excavation of this apartment, together with the smaller figure near it. From the upper end, which extends to the river, but is at present separated by a modern wall, is a communication on the east side with the CELLAR, of the ample dimensions of 59 ft. by 18 ft., beyond which was the BREW-HOUSE, 30 ft. by 18 ft. Before the walls of these buildings were pulled down to the present level, about eighty years ago, Dr. Burton's plan indicates what, apparently, was the site of the great boiler in the massy partition wall; and on its recent excavation, the ruined surface bore marks of subjection to intense heat. For the advantages of drainage and refrigeration, one side of these places was built on arches above the river, which, ultimately, seems to have endangered the stability of the eastern end.*

From the Frater-house we ascend, by a modern contrivance, for the proper staircase from the Cloister Court is still filled with rubbish, to the Court House, or, as it is called in the records of the Abbey, "THE HALL OF PLEAS,"—an interesting apartment 42½ by 22½ ft., groined to a central pillar without base or capital. The Court of the Liberty of Fountains—a large and privileged district, was held here until a period within recollection, when, in compliance with modern habits and associations, it was transferred to Fountains Hall. The compartment at the upper end, where the seneschal and his officers sat, is shown by the grooves of the cancelli or bars by which they were surrounded, in the central pillar.

* Under the arch, at the eastern extremity of this water-course, was found during the recent excavation, a hoard of silver money, consisting of 354 pieces, generally in excellent preservation, ranging in date from the reign of Philip and Mary to that of Charles the First; a few clipped pieces being Spanish coin. They were laid, at the depth only of a foot, on a piece of slate, and were doubtless committed to this particular place by an inhabitant of the adjacent country who had been slain suddenly during the Great Rebellion; for it was easy to be identified by any who shared the secret.

The apartment over the Court-house, now nearly ruined, may have been the place where the records and muniments of the Abbey were deposited, if the room above the Gate-house was not appropriated to that purpose.

On descending to the Cloister Court, we enter the KITCHEN, a valuable example of the domestic architecture of the twelfth century; vaulted like the Court House above, to a single slender pillar. A more interesting instance, however, of the skill and confidence of the architect, may be observed in the heads of the two fire-places—each not less than $16\frac{1}{2}$ ft. long and $6\frac{1}{2}$ ft. deep—the heads of which are straight and formed of huge stones, dovetailed together on the principle of an arch. Hence, too, another requisite must have been contributed; for the kitchen is entirely destitute of windows on three sides, and the triangular apertures to the south seem intended rather for the admission of air than light. The two openings in the west wall have been, no doubt, the hatchways by which provisions were served to the Refectory, but enlarged in modern times, to obtain a prospect.

THE REFECTORY, which forms the central apartment on the south side of the Cloister Court, is a very beautiful structure, of the Early English period, of the magnificent dimensions of 109 by $46\frac{1}{2}$ feet. As it was, therefore, incapable of being covered by one ridged roof, it was divided by a row of four marble columns, of which, however, all remnants but the foundations have been destroyed, within the last century. From the recess of the west side, a portion of scripture was read during the repast. The parapet of the staircase has been broken down and unskilfully repaired, but the bracket of the pulpit remains, in the form of an expanded flower.

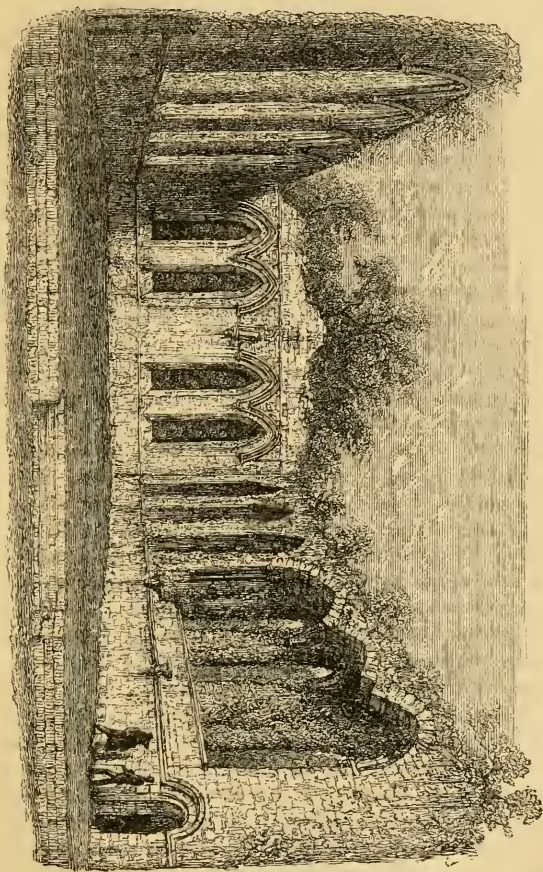
A door at the south-west corner of the Cloister Court leads to THE BUTTERY, a curiously contrived room, which has, also, an outlet towards the river, and an opening to the Refectory, which was the Hatchway. On making an excavation here, a few years ago, a quantity of ashes was found on the floor, the flags of which bore the marks of a protracted fire.

The west cloister having been, no doubt, already examined, we now pass to the BASE COURT, on the south side of the Chapter-house.

The whole area of this Court, as well as that of the buildings which enclose it, on the south and east sides, have been discovered only in a recent excavation from the kitchen to the Chapter-house; which, by restoring the old level, has both added considerably to the ground-plan, and increased the picturesque appearance of the Abbey.

On the west side, it will be observed to have had a pent-house attached to the Frater-house ; on the south, the cellar and brew-

INTERIOR OF THE REPECTORY.



house, before mentioned ; and, on the east, three apartments which will attract attention only from the fact, that they were the prisons of the Abbey. These favourite localities of the novelist were used for the punishment of such monks as had been found guilty of felony

or other heinous crimes ; but, in this instance, the larger cell, on the south, may have been required by the secular authority which the convent enjoyed within "The Liberty of Fountains." In each, however, it is evident, solitary confinement and the most strict isolation was inflicted, from the consequent presence of a convenience, which added only to the offensive character of the place. The apartments on the east side of them, as well as those in the upper story, may have been used only for subordinate purposes, since the former were approached through the Abbot's coal-yard ; indeed, an ash-heap was found in front of the round-headed door-way, at the time of its discovery. The stair-case at the north-west corner may have served some apartments of the Abbot's house over the passage.

The whole of the apartments of the Abbey have now been visited, and an idea probably formed of the nature, wants, and arrangement of the most definite and perfect exponent of the monastic system remaining in the kingdom. The recent excavation has, however, disclosed, in the ruin of the Abbot's house, now before us, an equally interesting example of our early domestic architecture, which furnishes, also, additional evidence of the dignity, hospitality, and general social condition of the rulers of these influential establishments.

Previously to the month of November, 1848, the site of this house remained in the condition in which it was left when Sir Stephen Proctor pulled it down for materials for Fountains Hall—a shapeless mass of rubbish, overgrown with weeds and brushwood, which rendered it inaccessible, and entirely concealed any trace of foundations that might have been sought. From a practice, however, which prevailed in the Cistercian houses, supported, locally, by inferences derived from the records of the Abbey, I have been induced, for some years past, to point out this as the site of the Abbot's house, in opposition to the received idea that the Hospitium, on the west side of the great cloister, had been appropriated to the purpose ; but beyond this suggestion, nothing, until the period in question, was ascertained. At that time, the arched space above the river requiring repair, and, consequently, a removal of the soil, a pavement was discovered, which indicated the important character of the ruined building ; and ultimately led—by the noble owner's direction—to the extensive and interesting excavation which has ensued.

Before proceeding to a survey of the ruin, it should be observed by how great sacrifice of labour the site of the house has been obtained in this particular and favourite locality ; for, as the valley is extremely contracted, and the Skell incapable of permanent diver-

sion, the only expedient of the monks was to build above the river ; and four parallel tunnels, each nearly 300 feet long, still attest their perseverance and skill.

As far as remains enable us to judge, the building of the house was undertaken by Abbot John de Cancia, after he had completed the Choir and Lady Chapel of the conventual church. The wealth and reputation of the monastery was, in his time, nearly at its height ; and the sweeping donations it had received from the Percys, and Mowbrays, and Romillies, and their sub-infeudatories, had enabled them to realise their architectural designs on the grandest scale. Until this time, the residence of the Abbot was probably of the humble, but not unusual, materials of wood and plaster ; as, indeed, the lodgings of the Prior of Bolton seem to have been at the time of the Dissolution.

The character of the structure, like that of the Abbey, has been plain and substantial, depending more on the grand proportion and combination of the main outlines than the elaborate decoration of particular features and parts. The arrangement must, however, either have been very commodious, or the domestic economy invariable ; for it seems to have remained unaltered until that era of social change which heralded the sixteenth century, when one of those great architectural reformers—Darnton or Huby—built a separate Refectory, and formed several apartments, by dividing the Great Hall, which decreased simplicity of manners had rendered of unnecessary dimensions.

The chief or state approach to the house was by a spacious ALLEY, from the east side of the Cloister Court, richly, but not continuously, decorated by a trefoil-headed arcade, supported by a double row of shafts, and so deeply recessed, as, subsequently, to have required the insertion of solid masonry behind the foremost shaft. THE HALL, to which this passage led, has been, unquestionably, one of the most spacious and magnificent apartments ever erected in the kingdom, and admirably adapted for the entertainment of those distinguished persons and their hosts of gentilitial retainers by whom the Abbot was continually visited. Its internal length is not less than 171 feet, and its width 70 feet ; the bases, or foundations, of eighteen cylindrical columns, shafted and banded with marble,—indicating its division into a nave and two aisles, the latter having circulated round the extremities of the former. The number and position of its windows cannot be ascertained ; but the jambs and bases dug up within the area, show that they were plain lancet lights similar to

those of the Lady Chapel. Of the existence of clerestory windows, there is no trace.

The chief entrance to the Hall has been torn down to the ground ; but from the bases of the shafts by which it was flanked, it appears to have been of similar design to those of the Lady Chapel.

On each side of the Hall, which stands directly across the river, occupying the whole width of the house from north to south, the other apartments have been grouped. Immediately opposite the entrance, is the principal staircase. On the left, in the north wall, one of the great fire-places, now ruined to the hearth. To the right of the staircase, has been a room not yet fully cleared out. The next apartment, southward, was the CHAPEL, where the foundations of two buttresses on the south side suggest the idea of three windows ; and a base still attached to the north-east angle, the only other feature left, that three lancet lights occupied the eastern extremity. The stone altar is still tolerably perfect, but has lost its slab. On its north side has been a narrow staircase, leading either to the Vestry, or the apartments of the Chaplain ; and, beyond, the long but narrow base of a work, erected in the Perpendicular period, of which the use is uncertain.

On the north side of the Chapel, is a picturesque apartment, partially vaulted, which, being below the general level of the other rooms, and, from the declivity of the ground, always accessible, has often been delineated as "a crypt," but stoutly asserted by the country people to have been "the place where the Abbot's six white chariot horses were kept !" "*Sex equi ad bigam*," the Abbot certainly had in his stable at the time of the Dissolution ; but, from the position and character of the place, it appears to have been the CELLAR and STORE-HOUSE of the establishment.

To the south of the Chapel, but detached from it by the intervention of the scullery-yard, has been the KITCHEN,—an apartment corroborating, in its dimension and appliances, the most romantic ideas of monastic hospitality. At the south side, are the foundations of two great fire-places and a boiler, in a wall which has divided a narrow "back-kitchen" from the chief apartment ; and, in the north-east angle, a stone grate in the floor, which was covered by wooden doors, and communicates with the river below. This very singular object, of which I do not remember another example, has, most probably, been used as a ventilator, to mitigate a temperature which must always have been sufficiently oppressive, but which, on festive occasions, would not only be increased by a subsidiary fire

and boiler, but also by two huge ovens, the one at the west, and the other, and larger, at the east end of the apartment.

These buildings, with some indefinite appurtenances of the kitchen, have flanked the east side of the Great Hall. The arrangement on the west side has been nearly obliterated by the lapse of the arches above the river. There may be traced, however, towards the north, the foundation of a room, which, from the amplitude of its dimensions, and the elevation of a dais at the west end, may be considered to have been the Refectory, erected, it seems, either by Darnton or Huby, and probably the apartment which, in a homage done to the latter Abbot, in 1501, is styled "*Nova camera versus ecclesiam*."

On the north side of this room was another, where stood a reservoir of water fed by a lead-pipe, still partly visible, from a spring above the kitchen bank. To the west of it was the coal-yard, in which the last supply that the Abbot needed, remained undisturbed until the recent excavation. There was found here, also, a large heap of ashes and cinders, just as they had been cast from the window above,—the sill being worn down by the frequent attrition of the shovel.

The removal of the mass disclosed what every housekeeper's experience would have suggested. First, of course, there was a silver spoon, weighing about an ounce, with capacious bowl, slender octagonal stem, and a head like a plain inverted Tudor bracket; then, broken pottery of different kinds and sizes,—from the painted ware that had disappeared from the Abbot's table, to the large coarse jugs that, after many "a mere crack," had, at last, been broken in the kitchen; a small silver ornament, resembling a lion's head, and, apparently, detached from an article of table plate; a silver ring; a brass ring; several Nuremburg tokens; part of a leaden ornament, designed like Tudor window tracery; with a number of venison and beef bones, and bushels of oyster-shells, mussel-shells, and cockle-shells, as fresh and pearly as when they left Abbot Bradley's table. Yet, trifling and worthless, in every respect, as most of these objects might be, they seemed, as they came from the hiding-place where forgotten hands had cast them, to connect the spectator with those whom three centuries have divided from personal sympathy and association, more intimately than the disclosure of that ruined scene in which they had so long been consigned to oblivion.

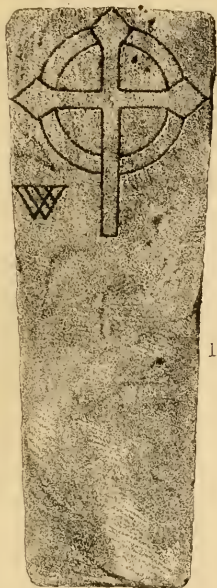
The ENCAUSTIC TILES, found in excavating the several apartments, are numerous and singular, and the evidence obtained on the subject of mediæval brickwork, important and interesting. The floors of the principal apartments have been paved either with encaustic or plain

tiles; but the greater part of them had been torn up and removed before the house was pulled down, when the specimens that remain were so much disturbed that it is difficult to determine to what particular apartment they belonged. The presence of a few geometrical tiles, similar to those with which John de Cancia decorated the church, seem to indicate that he bestowed also a pavement on the hall, and other chief apartments of the house; but none were found fixed, unless the small square tiles west of the refectory, may be referred to that early period. The rest of the tiles, that have been found in different parts, among the rubbish, are generally of the Tudor period; of which character, also, is a tolerably perfect pavement, upwards of 30 feet square, at the south end of the Great Hall. Although no general device has been attempted in its arrangement, beyond a few plain borders or bounding courses, respective of the bases of pillars, yet several patterns are introduced, without reference to equi-distance or principle, which are very interesting.

One pattern, of four tiles, displays the arms of the Abbey (*azure*), three horse-shoes (*or*), and the very appropriate circumscription, used by Darnton in the Lady Chapel, *Benedicite fontes domino*. Another, and nearly similar pattern, of four tiles, exhibits the same arms, but circumscribed by *Soli Deo honor et gloria*,—a motto always used by Huby, and identified, more particularly, with him in two fragmentary tiles, where the shield has displayed his initials, with the mitre and crozier. There is also a pattern, bearing,—perhaps heraldically,—three feathers, without a legend, similar to a much better impression, stolen, soon after its discovery, by some prowling “collector” from the centre of the dais in the Refectory. From the inferior manufacture, however, of the tiles used in the Hall, I am inclined to suppose that they were such only as were rejected, or remained unused, after some work which may, hereafter, be discovered in the Abbey itself.

The Abbot's garden and orchard were at the east end of the church, enclosed by a high wall, pulled down, with another which crossed the valley a little further eastward, soon after Mr. Aislabie purchased the place. But, beyond these limits, a range of buildings extended even to the site of the present east lodge*—about 500 yards—the foundations still remaining under the terraced walk. In a particular

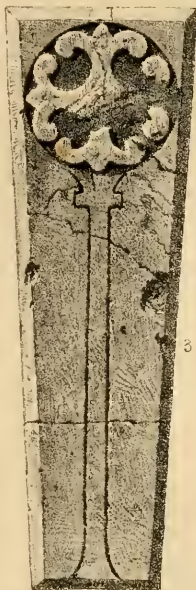
* It may be useful to observe, that a foot-path, by the river side, leads from Fountains Bridge to Aldfield Spa; a most valuable sulphuretted spring, in one of the most picturesque passes of Skeldale. It was discovered accidentally, about the year 1698, but has hitherto been unproductive of its capability, chiefly from the want of accommodation for visitors. I am not able to state minutely its component parts, but



1



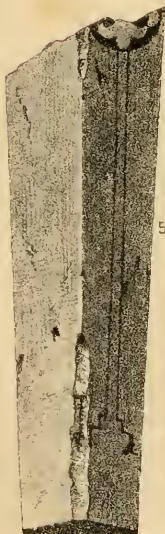
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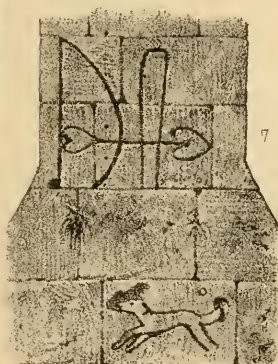
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On the N E. Buttress, Lady Chapel



position under the rocks—easy to be found by the beaten pathway—an echo can be heard, remarkable for its powerful reflection from the Abbey ; though often more amusing to a bystander by its discovery of the mental capacity and social position of those who, by some characteristic war-cry, endeavour to provoke its powers.

On leaving the Abbey Close, we enter a portion of the Studley grounds, not already visited ; and, after the enjoyment of much sylvan beauty, enhanced in a remarkable degree by our elevation above the contracted and deeply-wooded dell, emerge on a delicious lawn, before a beautiful casino or BANQUETING-HOUSE. In the chief apartment, adorned with a superb ceiling and other elaborate decorations of the last century, is a bronze statue of the Venus de Medicis, and, over the mantel-piece, a painting of the Governor of Surat going a hawking.

As we recede from this seductive spot, we continue to recognise many pleasing objects, which, being old acquaintance, need no introduction, though invested with new interest by the reversal of our former position and approach ; until, descending the well-walk, we speedily arrive at the lodge, and so bid adieu to scenes that, for many a year, may make

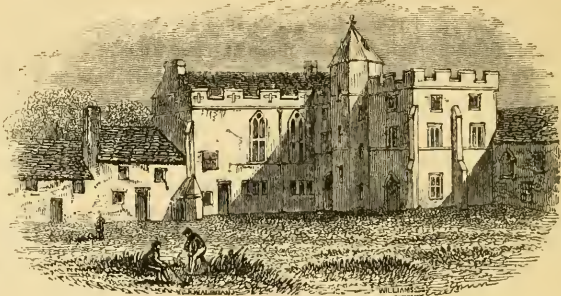
Thy mind a mansion for all lovely forms,
Thy memory a dwelling place
For all sweet sounds and harmonies.



the following analysis, prepared by Mr. Brunton, a skilful chemist of Ripon, about 50 years ago, will at least give an idea of its importance. A gallon exhibited :

| <i>Solid Contents.</i> | <i>Grs.</i> | <i>Gaseous Contents.</i> | <i>C. In.</i> |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Carbonate of Lime . . . | 12.5 | Carbonic Acid . . . | 6. |
| Carbonate of Magnesia . . . | 3.5 | Azote . . . | 4. |
| Sulphate of Magnesia . . . | 5. | Sulphuretted Hydrogen . . . | 21. |
| Muriate of Soda . . . | 208. | | |
| Muriate of Magnesia . . . | 96. | | |
| Total . . . | 325. | Total . . . | 31. |

Very pure azotic gas, in a free state, emitted at intervals, was collected at the rate of a gallon in 56 minutes, though several bubbles escaped.



MARKENFIELD HALL.



THE antiquary who is gifted with tolerable pedestrian powers, and has "the bump of locality" well developed, will find the profit he has received at Fountains, enhanced by a visit to Markenfield Hall. It may be seen from the east side of How Hill, rising among the saplings of its ancient park, about two miles from the Abbey ; but the road will not be easily found, without more particular direction.

From time immemorial, Markenfield was the residence of a powerful and well-allied family of that name, until the prominent part which was taken by Thomas Markenfield in the Rising in the North in 1569, occasioned his attainder, and, consequently, the forfeiture of his estates to the Crown.

In its general aspect, it remains much as he left it, a most valuable and picturesque example of that style of domestic architecture—"hesitating between hospitable confidence and armed precaution"—which illustrates a deeply interesting era of our social progress ; having been built by John de Markenfield, Chancellor of the Exchequer, who obtained license to castellate it in 1309.

In the fifteenth century, some alterations were made, chiefly in the doorways and lights on the east side of the quadrangle, and, in the great change of society which ensued in the Elizabethan

period, a general subdivision of the several apartments became necessary. Since that time, however,—though for awhile it was inhabited by the Egertons—it has been occupied as a farm-house, and so lost more and more of a character, exceedingly worthy of restoration.

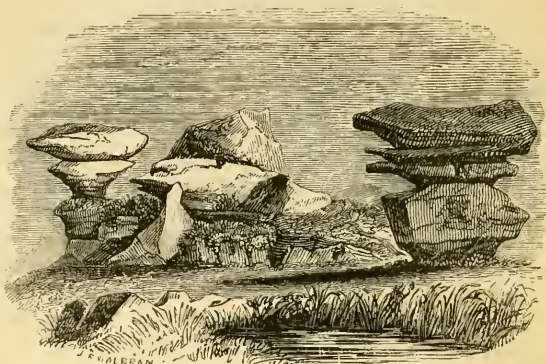
Though the original ground-plan is probably undisturbed, the entire shell of the present structure is not, wholly, of the founder's work. Indeed, the Gate-house is only of the Elizabethan period, and the range of stables, on the west side of the court, though highly curious, have been partially renewed.

The principal apartments were in the north-east angle, elevated, as usual, above the basement story, in which were the kitchen, cellars, and other offices, still evident and partly vaulted. The north wing is entirely occupied by the Hall, a noble apartment about 40 ft. long, and the whole width of the building. On its east, is the equally spacious Chapel, which has a fine altar window, with geometrical tracery; and a richly decorated piscina, with the arms of the family. To the south of the Chapel is the Solar, communicating with a suite of apartments worthy of close examination; and on the north, several apartments, occupied, perhaps, by the Chaplain, one of which has been partially paved with tiles of the rose and fret pattern, obtained, no doubt, from the kiln at Fountains, where they are found in abundance.

Within the recollection of aged persons, several large buildings and offices are remembered to have stood outside the moat; but all trace of them, and of a ponderous drawbridge before the gate-house, have long since disappeared.

No furniture, pictures, nor any memorial of the family remains in the house, except a piece of oak bearing their arms, carved in the sixteenth century: Quarterly, 1st and 4th (Argent) on a bend (sable), three bezants; 2nd, a fess between six escallops; 3rd, three tilting helmets, for Miniot. Supporters, two stags regardant. Crest, a hind's head affrontee.

Shortly after Markenfield's forfeiture, this estate was granted to the Lord Chancellor Egerton, by whose descendant, the celebrated Duke of Bridgwater, it was sold to Sir Fletcher Norton, ancestor to Lord Grantley, the present owner.



BRIMHAM ROCKS.

— ♦ —

“ Nature here,
Wanted as in her prime, and played at will
her virgin fancies,
Wild above rule or art.”

PARADISE LOST.



HIS interesting, and, probably, unique place of resort is generally visited, either by following the road that leads from Ripon to Studley ; or, by a direct drive from Harrogate—a road, formerly, all but impassable.

The mighty hand of nature has, seldom, left a more magnificent impression, than on this stupendous scene. Afar off, the precipitous site seems crowned by the inextricable wreck of a long desolated city. On a nearer view, the grim and uncouth forms defy all discrimination and definition ; and, when standing, at length, among them, our uncontrollable impression continues to be of perplexity and astonishment.

An attentive examination, however, soon satisfies us as to their origin, and leaves us in the enjoyment of the rude similitudes they present, and contemplation of the volcanic power that has rent their vast blocks asunder, and projected them, in all forms, to

vast distances. Impending high on the ridge of Nidderdale, the storms and floods of unnumbered ages have washed away the soil that had been accumulated around their forms, and exposed their bare bleak sides, in piles, the Titans might credibly have heaped up. The friable nature of their composition, wasted by the corroding blasts sweeping both from the Atlantic and Northern Seas, across miles of unsheltered moors, has aided the distorted formation, and created grotesque and singular shapes, analogous to those presumed to have been used by Druidical superstition. When the learning and imagination of Borlase had awakened the minds of scholars to the existence of extensive monuments of this ancient priesthood in England, it was natural, therefore, that such a mysterious assemblage of erratic forms should not remain unappropriated, or unpeopled with visions of the past. Major Rooke dissertated at length on them, before the Society of Antiquaries, in 1786. Minor tourists, of course, caught the infection; and, since then, they have generally been considered, and almost daily described, as the great veritable abode of Druidism in the northern parts.

That the Druids may not have availed themselves of facilities thus appropriately furnished, imperfect investigation does not suffer me to deny. From the Rocking Stones, which are considered the best evidence, I think nothing has been satisfactorily inferred; and, of the fabrication of the rugose tubes, penetrating rocks sometimes of 30 feet in length, and deemed to be passages for the impressive conveyance of mysterious sounds and words—correlative proof, difficult to be obtained, can only certainly decide. One stone, however, presents an appearance for which many think it has been indebted a little to the hand of man. It stands on the brink of the northern precipice, and consists of an irregular columnar mass, 19ft. high, and 47 in circumference, resting on a truncated cone, whose apex is but one foot, and base 2ft. 7in. in diameter. A glance at the very friable consistency of the general stratification of the groups at this level, may probably solve the mystery.

In the midst of the rocks, the late Lord Grantley erected a house, with suitable out-offices, for the accommodation of those who were attracted to a place which, as Burns said of his farm at Ellisland, seems to be “the riddlings of creation.”

HACKFALL.



O THOSE who are gladdened by the works of Nature, and a ramble in an umbrageous retreat, there cannot be afforded a richer treat than a trip to Hackfall. It is a sufficient recommendation to know that its beauty was commemorated by Gilpin ; and that Pennant, who had seen much, and, generally, saw that much well, styled it "one of the most picturesque scenes in the north of England."

This peculiar character is occasioned by the expanding embouchure of a precipitous glen, that guides a leaping stream, opposite a grand sweep of the river Ure, where it ploughs its way at the bottom of a deep and densely wooded ravine. Naked and rifted scars create, apart from their intrinsic majesty, a charming contrast by their protrusion from the long sylvan steeps ; while simple erections, artfully contrived and judiciously distributed, blend, as far as fiction may, the associations that gather around the ruined arch and broken tower.

The entrance to the woods is by a simple wicket, found immediately after leaving the village of Gruelthorpe, on the road side to Masham. The little rivulet, gurgling over its stony bed, accompanies our declining path, until joined by the Alum-spring, gliding noiselessly through the woods on the brae side, though blemished by the artificial character of its mossy channel. The path is continued to the river, but we cross the burn, and, forgetting the steep ascent of the glen, in the diversity of prospect which every footstep acquires, surmount the wooded vale at "Mowbray Castle ;" where the view extends uninterruptedly from our feet, to the long range of accliving land that shelters the town of Richmond.

We sink by slow gradations to the high bank of the river, passing reluctantly, each recurring prospect of its waters, and peering down gullies that headlong torrents have ploughed in the steep brae side.

Having thus attained the extreme southern point, screened only by slender boughs from the perilous stream, we may enjoy the seclusion of the dell, by winding down the long terraces that have been laboriously hewn athwart the impending scar. High, over-arching, boughs have entwined their grisly roots among the bare bleak stones, and often may be observed, obtruding themselves, at considerable distances, from the parent stem.

After a short stroll by the river, interrupted offensively by the scroggy plantation that has superseded the ancient woods on the further bank, we cross the burn that accompanied our early walk, and embrace the opportunity of rest, and restorative appliances, at Fisher's Hall. From this little grot, formed chiefly of petrifications collected in the grounds, the river rolling on under the sombre hill, attracts, from its proximity, at least, undivided attention, until a glance, perhaps casually and at departure, discloses, in the contrary direction, two rills stealing down the mossy rocks, embosomed in verdant shade. "Mowbray Point" and "Castle," crown, at a considerable elevation, the sylvan canopy, but much of their beauty is lost in the assimilation of the objects.

Having crossed the dell of the "Town-beck," and turned away from the river, we halt in the solitude of the woods, to view, from a rustic bower, a rill, skipping amid tall graceful stems, and, in another direction, down a lofty avenue, the ruin on Mowbray Point, relieved only by the clouds.

As we seek the brow of the impending hill, various distant prospects of the country beyond Masham object themselves, even to a careless eye ; until, having gained the jutting brow, you obtain a foretaste of the coming prospect of the far-famed vale of York. Yet, another glimpse, and a few hurried paces more, and the long expected gratification bursts on you, in all its grandeur, at "Mowbray Point."

From the abyss at your feet, where black waters sleep in cavernous gloom, the eye rises, joyously, to the bold massy foreground of deep woods and sweeping torrents, to meads and cornfields, and forests, and an interminable succession of flood and fell—bewildered amid the myriad shapes and shades inextricably woven into their web ; nor dreams of the immensity of that gorgeous expanse until the faint blue lines mingle with the Hambleton hills, and it finds the amplitude that converges to its vision comprehends the sixty miles that intervene between the towers of York and the estuary of the Tees.

To detail, then, to strangers, the numberless objects that may be observed, would be both unnecessary and unavailing. Yet, it may detain many a lingerer to know that, where the twin towers of Tanfield rise by the gleaming stream, the last home of the great Marmions is canopied by the one; and that the chivalry of the north have approached the halls of Fitzhugh through the other. That in the gabled pile to the right, "Old Norton" mused on the treason that has immortalised his name; and that at Topcliffe,—receding further from the view, the regal hearted Percys enjoyed a retirement from the world, until the avenging hand of Elizabeth entailed misery and ruin on the representative of their race. That, still beyond, towers Craike, the embattled patrimony of the sainted Cuthbert; and, turning quickly aside, that Northallerton, forgetful of the stately palace of the bishops of Durham, and looking upon the plain of the Battle of the Standard, nestles at the left of the mountain ridge; and that, glancing over the Priory of Mountgrace, and Harlsey the stronghold of the Strangwayes, and Whorlton of the Meinells and the Darcies, and Stokesley of the Baliols and the Eures, Rosebury rears its volcanic peak among the clouds; while, still beyond, the high lands of Eston die into a line of gleaming light, that may, reasonably, be deemed to be the ocean.

Few having looked on so much beauty, would now desire further entertainment. The path favours our return, and by a circuitous route, that agreeably mitigates our transition, we presently regain the lanes and fields.

HARROGATE.

*Hæc resoluta senum confirmat membra trementum,
Et refovet nervos lotrix hæc lympa gelatos,
Huc infirma regunt baculis vestigia claudi,
Ingrati referunt baculis vestigia spretis.*

HOBBS, DE MIRABILIBUS PECCI.



ARROGATE, like most watering places of renown, had but an humble and obscure origin. In the earliest periods to which our written history extends, it lay an undistinguished and probably untenanted spot in the forest of Knaresbrough; and it was not until the emparkment of a portion of that great sylvan range at Haywra, that,—from the road which led thither from the fortress on the Nidd,—it became known as Haywragate.

As the time of the emparkment of Haywra is uncertain, so must be the designation of the road that led thither. In a charter granted by Richard Earl of Cornwall, about 1257, to the house of St. Robert at Knaresbrough, there is mention of the road which turns from that town towards "Heywra," and the application of sainted appellations to some of the springs at Harrogate, indicates that they, if not their unusual efficacy, were observed during the mediæval period. Yet the huts that were scattered by the way-side might not, even in this century, have lost much of their humble character, if the occurrence of an accidental circumstance had not suddenly changed their fortune.

It was this: Captain William Slingsby, a younger brother of the family that for several centuries has resided at Scriven, about three miles from this place, visited, during the latter half of the sixteenth century, the waters of Sauveniere, in Germany, and received benefit. On his return, he observed, as too many have done, that he had left a remedy of equal efficacy at home,—was wise enough to avail himself of the benefit,—gratefully built a protection over the spring,

—and spread the glad tidings of its utility among the marvelling population around.

While a series of cures were in performance, some of which, says Dr. Short, “are perhaps the greatest and most remarkable filed up in the authentic records of physic, down from Hippocrates to this day,” Dr. Stanhope, an ingenious physician, of York, discovered in 1631, at High Harrogate, another Chalybeate spring, to which, in distinction to the Sulphur Waters, he gave the name of the “Sweet Spa.” In the year after, when he wrote his dissertation of the Mineral Waters near Knaresbrough—for, by that general designation, be it remembered, these springs at Harrogate were then, and long after, comprehended—the Sulphur waters were rising in reputation, though they were chiefly frequented by the common people; and our author confessed “what are its inward uses we know not yet.” It was fortunate, however, that in this absence of information, the merits of the sulphuretted springs forced themselves on attention; for a controversy soon after arose, touching the relative merits of the Scarborough and Harrogate Chalybeate Waters; and, with the fate that has attended many once fashionable watering places, our Spa might have become unfrequented and unregarded, had not the Sulphur Water maintained its popularity.

With the social progress of the eighteenth century, Harrogate rose and prospered. Its accommodations increased with the domestic economy and civilisation of the times, and the number of visitants with that accumulation of wealth, which commercial skill and enterprise had dealt to the hands of so many—until, at the present day, by the centralisation of many species of medicinal waters—the superiority of the most important class—the beauty of the surrounding country—and the diversity of amusements, Harrogate has become, and by its many undeveloped attractions and the permanent character of its excellencies, bids fair to remain, one of the most interesting, eligible, and beneficial watering places in the Empire.

High and Low Harrogate form, as far as parochial matters and other greater local interests are concerned, two distinct villages, whose line of division, two brooks, is not obvious to the eye. The former is in the parish of Knaresbrough, the other in that of Pannal; but, until the formation of the Bishopric of Ripon, a more singular distinction prevailed; for the former was in the jurisdiction of the See of Chester—the latter that of York.

The Parishioners of High Harrogate attended divine service, by an inconvenient journey of three miles, until the year 1749, when, by the subscription of the interested parties, and a donation of 50*l.* from Lady Elizabeth Hastings, a chapel was erected. In 1831 it needed so much extension that its removal was deemed preferable, and the materials were alienated for the formation of "The Independent Chapel," near Prospect-place. The structure which succeeded it was built in the same year, and affords an accommodation of 1200 sittings, of which 800, designated by labels, are "free." Under the provisions of the Act, 58 Geo. III., c. 45, a district parish has, very properly, been assigned to this church.

Low Harrogate, which is three miles from its parish church, first obtained the benefit of a separate place of worship in 1824, when St. Mary's Church was erected, after much exertion, aided by the Commissioners of the Million Act.

The inhabitants and visitors attached to the Romish faith, perform their devotions in the spacious chapel lately erected at Knaresbrough.

The Dissenters have exhibited their wonted alacrity, in providing spiritual instruction for the strangers of their several persuasions. The new Wesleyan Chapel—for the old one, that had arisen so early as 1797, was abandoned to the purposes of "The Lounge"—will be found in Central Harrogate, and of capacity sufficient to accommodate 800 souls. The Independents erected a commodious structure in 1831, by the footpath leading to High Harrogate; and the Quakers meet, during the Spa season, in the British School Room, in Central Harrogate.

And now of the Waters themselves. In a publication like the present, intended for general circulation, it is of course unavailing to dissertate on the component parts and application of waters, of which it is sufficient for the majority that they drink "in faith, nothing doubting." The Chemist has had, already, the advantage of several careful and judicious observations and analyses; and to those who are driven hither more by necessity than pleasure, I would recommend, in the words of Dr. French, that they apply themselves to some experienced Physician, who shall be able to understand their constitution, distemper, and the nature and use of the waters themselves; that accordingly, as cause shall require, the more successful preparations may be administered, and the more effectual directions given.

THE TEWIT WELL

on the Common, to the east side of the Brunswick Hotel and near the Leeds and Harrogate road, has not only precedency of its companions, but of all similar waters in the county. Its history, which has been much garbled, is best conveyed in the original words of Dr. Dean's *Spadacrene Anglica*, published in 1626. "It was discovered first," says he, "about fifty years ago, by one Mr. William Slingsby, who had travelled in Germany in his younger years, seen and been acquainted with theirs; and as he was of an ancient family near the place, so he had fine parts, and was a capable judge. He lived sometime at a Grange house near it; then removed to Bilton Park, where he spent the rest of his days. He, using this water yearly, found it exactly like the German spaw. He made several tryals of it, then walled it about and paved it in the bottom with two large stone flags, with a hole in their sides for the free access of the water, which springs up only at the bottom through a chink or cranny left on purpose. Its current is always nearly the same, and is about the quantity of the Sauvenir, to which Mr. Slingsby thought it preferable, being more brisk and lively, fuller of mineral spirits, of speedier operation: he found much benefit by it. Dr. Tim. Bright, about thirty years ago (1596), first gave it the name of '*The English Spaw.*' Having spent some time at those in Germany, he was a judge of both, and had so good an opinion of ours that he sent many patients hither yearly, and every summer drank the waters upon the place himself. And Dr. Anthony Hunter, late Physician of Newark-upon-Trent, often chided us Physicians in York for not writing upon it, and deservedly setting it upon the wings of fame."

Though it has of late been indulged with the old cast-off dome from the Sulphur well, the memorable "English Spaw" still remains, after all the benefits it has conferred and all the praise it has received, in something like its pristine humility, and deserted, until lately, for those that have better advocates and a more commodious position. For a trifling gratuity to the inmates of an adjacent cottage, the visitor may still enjoy the undiminished benefit that it offers, and test, in his own person, the truth of Dr. French's recommendation: that it occasions the retention of nothing that should be evacuated, and, by relaxation, evacuates

nothing that should be retained ; that it dries nothing but what 's too moist and flaccid, and heats nothing but what 's too cold, and *e contra* ; and that, " tho' no doubt there are some accidents and objections to the contrary," it makes the lean fat, the fat lean, cures the cholick, and melancholy, and the vapours ; and that—fair reader—it cures *all* aches speedily, and *cheareth* the *heart*.

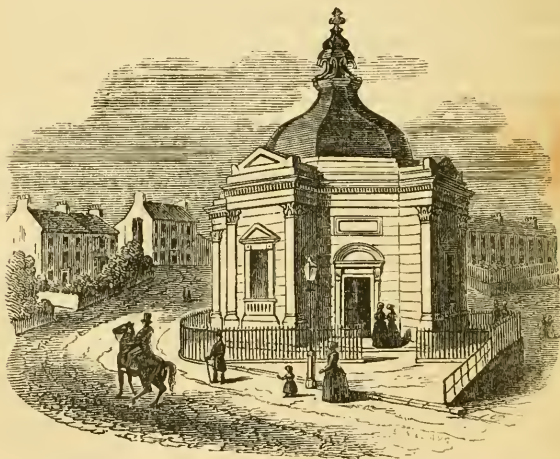
THE SWEET SPA.

In 1631, only five years after Dr. Dean had set the Tewit well " on the wings of Fame," Dr. Stanhope discovered another Chalybeate well, about a quarter of a mile from it, not far from the Plumpton and Wetherby road, and took "leave to advertise" the public of the same, in that now rare tract, styled "*Cures without Care, or a summons to all such as find little or no help by the use of Physick to repair to the Northern Spaw.*" It has the advantage of a more elevated and commanding situation than the Tewit well, which it has superseded, and is the chief Chalybeate water used at Harrogate. It seems to have acquired this distinction soon after its discovery ; for, in 1656, great pains were taken to form a square terrace, sixty yards on each side, vestiges of which still remain, and to protect the enclosure by a stone, which records, " All this ground, within these walkes, belongs to the Forist of Knaresbrough. 1656. John Stevenson." In 1786, Alexander, Lord Loughbrough, who owned some property in the township, and was interested in the prosperity of Harrogate, generously erected a stone canopy over the spring, which was removed in 1842, when the present neat building was substituted.

THE OLD SULPHUR WELLS.

Though the Sulphur waters engaged attention in the early part of the seventeenth century, and were then used, both internally and externally, it seems doubtful whether the well, now so justly celebrated, was much resorted to until the concluding period of the Commonwealth, when Dr. George Neale, of Leeds, a benevolent and enlightened man, applied himself to the promotion of their use, and the advancement of their condition, with a spirit that deserves a lasting memorial at the hands even of this distant

generation. In a posthumous paper that has been published by Dr. Short, he thus records the means by which thousands have been blessed :—"There are (*cir.* 1676), and were about twenty years ago, three springs close together, *very low and scarce of water, that all of them did not afford sufficient water for drinking and bathing.* Wherefore, for the convenience of the drinkers, I thought it convenient to take up the uppermost spring, which is weakest and slowest of them, and made a large basin to contain several hogsheads of water, and covered it with a large stone to preserve it from the sun and rain water ; *and for a week together we rammed its sides with clay* to prevent other springs from getting in. The event answered expectation : *for we had a fresh spring of much better and stronger water, which afforded as much in one hour now as it did in twenty-four before, more loaded with the minerals than ever, and so of greater efficacy for either bathing or drinking.*" It



NEW PUMP ROOM, SULPHUR WELL.

is a remarkable fact, in the impregnation of these waters, that the second spring, which has been generally covered up, is not half the strength of the first or chief well, though it is but a yard distant from it. The third, which is about 16ft. removed, though very potent, contains, like the weak well, a trace of sulphate of soda, which the old well does not. Being open to the public like the

rest, it has been chiefly reserved for baths, and transmission to distant parts of the kingdom. To these three wells, an addition, very unwelcome at the time but very useful since, was made about a century ago, when a man, who, under the protection of a lease from the Earl of Burlington, had acquired a right of searching for minerals in the Forest of Knaresbrough, pretended to dig for coal, where the three sulphur wells are situate. From this attempt, the Innkeepers and others at Harrogate, who were interested in the preservation of the wells, persuaded him to desist by the payment of 100*l*. "Sulphur water, however," says the late Bishop of Llandaff, who records the story, "had risen up where he had begun to dig: they enclosed the place with a little stone edifice, and, putting down a basin, made a fourth well."

In 1804 the principal well was distinguished by a large dome supported by pillars; and thus it remained, with some minor improvements, until 1842; when, in justice to the importance of the Spa, and the proper and prudent conservation of its waters, the Commissioners, under the Harrogate Improvement Act, resolved to enclose the springs in a reasonable and efficient manner. An octagonal Pump Room, of ample dimension and appropriate decoration, was erected from the design of Mr. Shutt, a native of Harrogate, and opened on the 23rd of July, in that year; but that this laudable arrangement might not interfere with the means or inclination of those who could or would not afford a trifling gratuity to the attendant, a pump, available under restrictions consequent only on the preservation of the water, is placed without the walls.

Analysis of the Contents of one gallon of the Sulphur Water :

| <i>Solid Contents.</i> | <i>Grs.</i> | <i>Gaseous Contents.</i> | <i>C. In.</i> |
|----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Muriate of Soda . . . | 902·4 | Sulphuretted Hydrogen . . . | 16·8 |
| Muriate of Lime . . . | 78·9 | Carbonic Acid . . . | 5·1 |
| Muriate of Magnesia . . . | 35· | Azote . . . | 9·6 |
| Bi-Carbonate of Soda . . . | 15·4 | Carburetted Hydrogen . . . | 4·98 |
| Total . . . | 1031·7 | Total . . . | 36·48 |

THE MONTELLIER OR CROWN SULPHUR WELL,

about 200 yards east of the old wells, is private property, and appurtenant to the Crown Hotel. It was found in 1822, and is enclosed together with the Saline Chalybeate pump, connected with a spring at a small distance, in an octagonal apartment, in "the Chinese style." The public have the benefit of these powerful

springs by a trifling subscription; obtaining also thereby the gratification of walking in the adjoining Pleasure-ground.

One gallon of this Sulphur Water has been found to contain

| <i>Solid Contents.</i> | <i>Grs.</i> | <i>Gaseous Contents.</i> | <i>C. In.</i> |
|----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Muriate of Soda . . . | 882 | Sulphuretted Hydrogen . . . | 19.68 |
| Muriate of Lime . . . | 85.8 | Carbonic Acid . . . | 6.3 |
| Muriate of Magnesia . . . | 51.6 | Azote . . . | 7.8 |
| Bi-Carbonate of Soda . . . | 17.7 | Carburetted Hydrogen . . . | 5.58 |
| Total . . . | 1037.1 | Total . . . | 39.36 |

In the autumn of 1835 the proprietor of the Crown Inn sunk a well on his premises, 82 ft. from the old sulphur well, which was supposed to be thereby seriously injured. He was, consequently, indicted under the provisions of the Knaresbrough Forest Enclosure Act: but before the arguments were concluded, consented to surrender the room which enclosed it to the use of the public, for whose use he was required also to put down a pump. The order of the Court, which was also made a rule of the Court of King's Bench, enjoined that "the room be opened to the public from six in the morning until six in the evening of each day, and that the defendant shall only use the pump and water in common with the rest of the public;" though he was allowed to possess a key, apart from that used by the commissioners. He engaged also not to deepen any of the other wells on his premises.

THE KNARESBROUGH, OR STARBECK SPA

is situate midway between Harrogate and Knaresbrough, and about 200 yards from the road-side. It obtained notice at an early period, and was one of the three sulphur springs which Dr. Dean, in 1626, considered "worthy of the Physician's observation." The subsequent improvement of the wells at Low Harrogate superseded its benefits, which, elsewhere, would have been invaluable; and, in 1822, neglect and some degree of jealousy had so far combined, that its site was almost unknown. In that year the inhabitants of Knaresbrough did justice to the valuable gift committed to their charge, by erecting an appropriate building over it, with a suite of baths, and a residence for the attendant. Its quality seems particularly adapted to delicate constitutions, and it has afforded relief when stronger waters have failed.

Analysis of one gallon :

| <i>Solid Contents.</i> | <i>Grs.</i> | <i>Gaseous Contents.</i> | <i>C. In.</i> |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Chloride of Sodium . . . | 122· | Sulphuretted Hydrogen . . . | 5· |
| Sulphate of Soda . . . | 2·5 | Carbonic Acid . . . | 8·3 |
| Chloride of Calcium . . . | 10· | Azote . . . | 11·7 |
| Chloride of Magnesium . . . | 8·25 | | |
| Bi-Carbonate of Soda . . . | 3· | | |
| Total . . . | 145·75 | Total | 25· |

SALINE CHALYBEATE, OR ROYAL CHELTENHAM PUMP ROOM.

The discovery of a water, which united the properties of a tonic, aperient, and alterative, was one of the greatest benefits that had occurred to Harrogate since the establishment of the old Sulphur well. It was found, together with the adjacent but disused Chalybeate, by Mr. Oddy, in 1819, while searching for sulphur water to supply the baths ; and at the lower end of the little valley that has disclosed the chief wells of Low Harrogate. When the reputation of Harrogate became fixed on something more than the ephemeral attractions of a place of fashionable resort, the original pump-room was superseded by a spacious building, erected by the proprietor Mr. Williams, in 1835, in which the Doric style is applied to the exigencies of the case with taste and judgment. Not only the conservation of the water, but the amusement of its visitors is secured in this saloon, which is 100 feet long, 33 feet wide, and 27 feet high ; for, it affords, besides a most comfortable and luxurious promenade, an agreeable resort for the perusal of the newspapers, and such current literature of the day as can be selected from a library of several hundred volumes. The enterprise, also, of the present manager affords the frequent enjoyment of the first musical talent in the kingdom ; and other similar sources of refined pleasure. The appurtenant grounds are laid out with considerable effect, and afford—within limits more diversified than the site would induce many to suppose—a promenade of more than a mile in extent ; and, of comfort, to be estimated best by those who have been, elsewhere, driven to the highways for their imperative ambulation. A sheet of water, albeit neither delectably clear nor dangerously deep, completes, as yet, the result of a meritorious undertaking, which few, interested in the prosperity of Harrogate, will be disinclined to patronise.

The constituent parts of a gallon of the Saline Chalybeate Water are

| <i>Solid Contents.</i> | <i>Grs.</i> | <i>Gaseous Contents.</i> | <i>C. In.</i> |
|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Oxide of Iron | 5·3 | Carbonic Acid | 5·75 |
| Chloride of Sodium . . . | 576·5 | Azote | 7·75 |
| Chloride of Calcium . . . | 43·5 | | |
| Chloride of Magnesium . . | 9·65 | | |
| <hr/> | | <hr/> | |
| Total | 634·95 | Total | 13·5 |

THE MONTPELLIER CHELTENHAM SPRING;

was discovered, some years ago, in the Gardens of the Crown Hotel. It was not, generally, used, for some time after; but is now supplied from a pump, adjoining that of the sulphuretted spring, previously noticed. A gallon exhibits

| <i>Solid Contents.</i> | <i>Grs.</i> | <i>Gaseous Contents.</i> | <i>C. In.</i> |
|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Sulphate of Soda | 19·9 | Carbonic Acid | 18·5 |
| Muriate of Magnesia . . . | 34·3 | Carburetted Hydrogen . . | 3·5 |
| Muriate of Lime | 174·7 | Azote | 8 |
| Muriate of Soda | 645·6 | | |
| Carbonate of Soda | 6·4 | | |
| Oxide of Iron | 3·1 | | |
| <hr/> | | <hr/> | |
| Total | 884 | Total | 30 |

WALKER'S STRONG SALINE SPRING

was added to this unique assemblage of waters in 1783; when it was observed in the cellar of the Crescent Hotel, in the garden of which, a spring, called the Crescent old well, partaking of the nature of both chalybeate and sulphuretted waters, was found, about the same period. It is enclosed in a plain pump-room; and considered of importance in all cases when the Leamington waters are applicable.

The solid contents of a gallon are found to be

| | <i>Grs.</i> |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Chloride of Sodium | 610 |
| Chloride of Calcium | 44·5 |
| Chloride of Magnesia | 14·5 |
| Carbonate of Soda. | 53 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total | 772 |

The gases are Oxygen, Azote, and Carbonic Acid, but we have not been able to ascertain their volume or proportions.

There are several other springs, both sulphuretted and chalybeate at Low Harrogate; but none require particular observation here.

HARLOW CARR SPRINGS.

The recent introduction of these wells to public notice has not only afforded a valuable remedy by which the sufferings of a large class of the Visitors to Harrogate may be more effectually mitigated, than by the use of any of the numerous collection already to be found there ; but, at the same time, an agreeable place of resort will be gained when seclusion is also necessary, or exercise can be induced or enhanced by scenes of rural beauty.

Their situation is in Harlow Carr, one of those small but picturesque valleys that intersect this part of the country ; upwards of a mile from the Brunswick Hotel, and beyond the tower, on the road from Harrogate to Otley. A small rivulet runs not far from the wells, and afterwards contributes, in a series of pools and bubbling falls, in its rocky passage through the woods, to produce a pleasing and effective variety in this secluded sylvan retreat.

There are several springs, both of Sulphur and Chalybeate water, in the grounds ; but three only of the former, and one of the latter quality, are used at present. The Analysis of a gallon of each, made by Mr. West of Leeds, in May, 1844, is as follows :—

SULPHUR SPRING NO. 1.

| <i>Solid Contents.</i> | <i>Grs.</i> | <i>Gaseous Contents.</i> | <i>C. In.</i> |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Muriate of Lime . . . | 4.73 | Sulphuretted Hydrogen . . | 3.15 |
| Sulphate of Magnesia . . | 1.15 | Carbonic Acid . . . | 6.05 |
| Carbonate of Magnesia . . | 6.93 | Nitrogen . . . | 8.34 |
| Carbonate of Lime . . . | 5.88 | | |
| Carbonate of Soda . . . | 14.11 | | |
| Total . . . | 32.8 | Total . . . | 17.54 |

SULPHUR SPRING NO. 2.

| <i>Solid Contents.</i> | <i>Grs.</i> | <i>Gaseous Contents.</i> | <i>C. In.</i> |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Muriate of Lime . . . | 8.85 | Sulphuretted Hydrogen . . | 2.8 |
| Sulphate of Magnesia . . | 2.91 | Carbonic Acid . . . | 5.75 |
| Carbonate of Magnesia . . | 8.48 | Nitrogen . . . | 7.97 |
| Carbonate of Lime . . . | .12 | | |
| Carbonate of Soda . . . | 17.64 | | |
| Total . . . | 38 | Total . . . | 16.52 |

SULPHUR SPRING NO. 3.

| <i>Solid Contents.</i> | <i>Grs.</i> | <i>Gaseous Contents.</i> | <i>C. In.</i> |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Muriate of Lime . . . | 4.77 | Sulphuretted Hydrogen . . | 2.92 |
| Sulphate of Magnesia . . | 1.56 | Carbonic Acid . . . | 6.1 |
| Carbonate of Magnesia . . | 8.23 | Nitrogen . . . | 7.98 |
| Carbonate of Lime . . . | 5.84 | | |
| Carbonate of Soda . . . | 12.9 | | |
| Total . . . | 33.3 | Total . . . | 17 |

CHALYBEATE SPRING.

| <i>Solid Contents.</i> | | Grs. |
|------------------------|-----------|------|
| Protoxide of Iron | | 2.16 |
| Muriate of Lime | | 1.62 |
| Sulphate of Magnesia | | .77 |
| ulphate of Soda | | 1.65 |
| Carbonate of Lime | | 2.93 |
| Carbonate of Soda | | 1.27 |
| Total | | 10.4 |

Mr. West observes: The Sulphur "waters are extremely similar, and might for medicinal purposes be considered as the same. The similarity is much greater than is represented by the figures, the total of the lime and magnesia being nearly the same in each, though in somewhat different combinations. I suggest for them the name of the Harlow Sulphuretted Alkaline Springs."

It will be at once perceived that the peculiar value of these sulphuretted springs consists in the total absence of Muriate of Soda, or common salt; which, as it exists in the old sulphur water to the extent of 902 grains, and, in the Montpellier water, to 882 grains in a gallon, neutralises, by its irritating quality—particularly in cutaneous cases—the beneficial effect that might otherwise ensue from their application.

The Chalybeate water, of which the analysis is given above, is the strongest of that character at present discovered in the Carr. It rises from the hill side, a short distance from the sulphur springs, and is considered by Mr. West "to be of very desirable strength."

The proprietor of this fortunate place, Mr. Wright, of Pannal, has recently done it justice by the erection of a substantial and comfortable Inn, designed in good Elizabethan character, which commands an agreeable prospect, and forms a pleasing object from several points in the grounds. A suite of ten Baths, either for hot or cold water, with two shower baths, have also been provided in a detached building near the wells, each side having a waiting-room and every other requisite convenience.

THE BATHS.

The benefit of an external application of the waters was perceived, and the absence of the means lamented, by Dr. Dean, in his tract of 1626. Dr. Neale—the great patron of Harrogate—intro-

duced warm sulphuretted baths, "and procured one such vessel for a pattern as are used, beyond sea, for that purpose." To this primæval provision—whose purgatory Smollett records in Humphrey Clinker—the inhabitants were content to subject their patrons, until Mr. Williams had the spirit to construct the VICTORIA PUBLIC BATHS; though, fettered by the terms on which he purchased the land for their site, he was obliged to place them *within*, instead of *upon*, the ground. The arrangement is nevertheless comfortable and commodious.

Two years afterwards, Mr. Thackwray fitted up the MONTPELLIER PUBLIC BATHS; and, by their luxurious and varied accommodation and peculiar adaption for invalids, completed all that this "useful branch of medical hygiene requires."

The peculiarly mild quality of the STARBECK water has also been made available to those who are deterred from the Baths at Low Harrogate, by the erection there, in 1828, of suitable apartments, and the provision of respectable attendants.

There is also another suite of PUBLIC SULPHUR BATHS IN CHAPEL-STREET, of still less expense, but proportionate accommodation. The chief inns, and even a majority of the lodging-houses, afford also this convenience, to those who are unable or indisposed to visit the public establishments.

A spring of the purest water, known by the name of ST. MUNGO'S WELL, but confounded, I apprehend, with the famous spring of old, supplies agreeable refreshment by swimming, shower, and other baths, at "The Cold Wells," by the road leading to Harlow Tower. It is supposed to be equivalent to the famed Ilkley well, and has been so much frequented that the proprietor found occasion, in 1817, to enlarge and improve the accommodation.

And lastly, it may not be irrelevant to remind those who have experienced the remedial effects of these waters, that their gratitude may not find a more appropriate or beneficial course than by alleviating, through the medium of the Harrogate BATH HOSPITAL, the sufferings of those unfortunate fellow-creatures, for whom Providence has provided a remedy, which their circumstances has not enabled them to apply.

HOTELS.

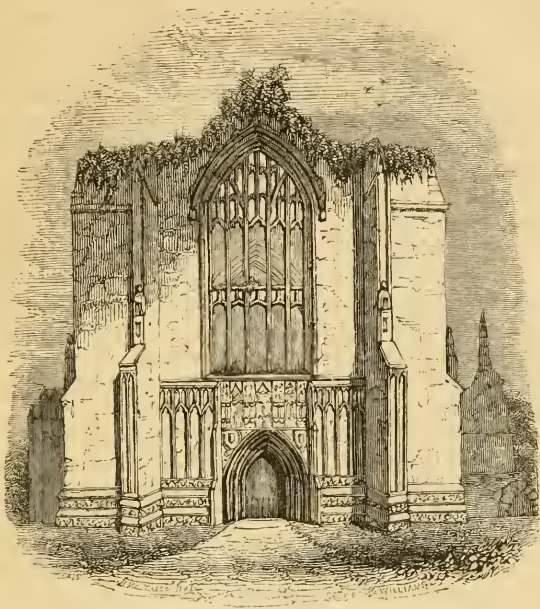
The accommodation afforded by the several HOTELS—too well known to need enumeration here—is such as will cause no class of society to regret the appliances and comforts of their own homes. The “Queen” was erected first, and as early as 1687. For those whose constitution or disposition forbids public association, there is the choice of two highly respectable boarding-houses, and above one hundred and twenty lodging-houses—offering every grade and class of comfort and convenience.

RECREATION.

An abundance of recreation is afforded to those, who visit Harrogate, as a periodical relaxation from sedentary pursuits and engrossing avocations. The RACE COURSE, laid out in 1793, favours equestrian exercise, and, occasionally, the amusement for which it was intended. There are BILLIARD TABLES in all the principal Hotels, and two Public Rooms at Low Harrogate. I need remind none who remember Harrogate, of the attractive balls that are enjoyed at the Dragon, Granby, and Crown Hotels; nor, of those excursions, by which many acquaintances that have been acquired there, are renewed and improved.

In unfavourable weather—and as a lounge while taking the adjacent sulphur water, or perusing the news and periodical literature of the day—“The Victoria,” better known as the “PROMENADE ROOMS,” a spacious apartment, 75 feet by 30 feet, offers an agreeable retirement. It was opened in 1805, and deserves patronage, especially from the elder visitors, if only from its pleasing associations of by-gone days, and the gratification it afforded when most of the existing *agrémens* of Harrogate were not.

And, lastly, there is an infinity of amusement at the TOWER on HARLOW HILL, which, though of the altitude of 596 feet above the level of the sea, is easy of ascent. The elevation of the tower to the height of 100 feet gained a bewildering and most imposing panoramic prospect, which can be viewed by the aid of seven mounted telescopes. I have understood from those, whose optical capacities are more fortunate than my own, that the Peak in Derbyshire, and the tower of a church in Hull, may be seen in a clear atmosphere—though the latter is distant sixty miles!



BOLTON PRIORY.

Now is there stillness in the vale,
And long unspeaking sorrow,
Wharfe shall be to pitying hearts
A name more sad than Yarrow.

WORDSWORTH'S FORCE OF PRAYER.



URING a visitor's sojourn at Harrogate, one day, at least, must be spent at Bolton. I have appended, therefore, though beyond the limits assigned to my pages, the following brief notices, which may consequently be considered as sug-

gestive, rather than descriptive, of objects to be seen or anticipated.

In the year 1120, William de Meschines and Cecily his wife, the heiress of Robert de Romillè, to whom William the Conqueror

granted vast possessions in Craven, founded at Embsay—two miles east of Skipton—a Priory for Austin Canons, to the honour of the Virgin Mary and St. Cuthbert.

After the death of the founders, and in the year 1151, Alice, their elder daughter and coheirress, who retained her mother's name of Romillè, and had married William Fitz-Duncan, nephew to David king of Scotland, is said, in a record which formerly belonged to the Priory, to have translated the foundation to Bolton.

There is generally some wild legend connected with the origin of our monastic foundations; and a tradition, that had not passed away in the middle of the seventeenth century, affirmed that this circumstance took place in consequence of "the Boy of Egremond," the only surviving son of the second foundress, having been drowned in attempting to cross the Strid, an unusually narrow part of the river Wharfe; and that Bolton was selected as being the nearest eligible site to where the misfortune happened.

This legend cannot, however, be implicitly received; for, when Alice gave the Canons her manor of Bolton, in exchange for their manors of Skibdun and Stretton, her son William—and in a pedigree, exhibited to Parliament in 1315, he is set down as her *only* son—appears in the charter as a consenting party to the transaction. Dr. Whitaker conjectured, therefore, that it might refer to one of the sons of the first foundress, both of whom died young; but, I think it may be better reconciled with this stubborn piece of evidence, by supposing that the manor of Bolton had been exchanged, for the convenience of Alice, *before* the accident, and that, subsequently, the Canons were glad to find a pretext, in her disconsolate lamentation, for descending, from the cheerless heights of Embsay, to the warm and sheltered seclusion of their newly-acquired possession.

But, whatever may have been the truth of this dim and faded story, we should rejoice that it lingered long enough to be revived—phoenix-like—from its ashes, in the memorable lays of Rogers and of Wordsworth.

After having existed upwards of four hundred years, the foundation was surrendered by Richard Moon, the prior, and fourteen of his brethren on the 26th of January, 1540. On the 3rd of April, 1542, the site, with many of the possessions of the house, were granted to Henry Clifford, first Earl of Cumberland, but nineteen days before his death, for the sum of 2490*l*. From him they

have descended to the present worthy owner, the Duke of Devonshire.

"The ruins of this celebrated Priory stand upon a beautiful curvature of the Wharf, sufficiently elevated to protect it from inundation, and low enough for every purpose of picturesque effect;" in which respect the competent judgment of Whitaker has pronounced that "it has no equal among the northern houses—perhaps not in the kingdom." Its site is so shut in by rising ground and embosomed in trees, that the visitor, who has come from Harrogate across "Knaresbrough forest," may not be aware that he is approaching it until he is almost on the spot.

The bridge retains no vestige of that structure which was erected or rebuilt in 1314, nor of the Chapel that was attached to it for the benefit of passengers; but the following inscription may yet be seen graven on an oaken beam in a cottage at the south-west angle, that most likely occupies its site:—

Thow pat passys by pis way our auc maria hrrc yow say.

There is a pleasant footpath from the bridge, across "the Town-field," to the abbey; but strangers, generally, proceed a few hundred yards further down the road, and enter the Abbey-close by an opening in the boundary-wall, which remains there in good preservation.

BOLTON HALL.

The gateway of the Priory is nearly opposite the west front of the church, and is a substantial work of the Perpendicular era, constructed with an idea of defence. As it had not been erected long before the dissolution, the arches were closed, and it was, soon after, fitted up as an occasional place of retirement for the Cliffords, or as a residence for one of their stewards. The house has recently been enlarged by the Duke of Devonshire, who occasionally retires here in the shooting season. It contains nothing of general interest except some curious pictures, chiefly family portraits, which visitors are allowed to inspect.

Outside the hall window are placed several curious Early-English bosses, which, I apprehend, have been removed from the passage leading from the Court to the Chapter-house of the Priory.

HISTORICAL NOTICE OF THE PRIORY.

The shell of the Priory Church remains entire, and the nave is still used as a parochial chapel. It exhibits all the styles of architecture that prevailed from the period of its foundation to that of its dissolution; and some of them in a degree of excellence that has not often been surpassed. The choir was evidently the first work of the Canons, after, or, more probably, a little prior to, their translation from Embsay; and from thence the work proceeded westward—a considerable time having apparently elapsed before they brought it to a conclusion.

The domestic buildings were, probably, built in the intermediate period between the erection of the choir and the nave; and after, or nearly contemporary with, the completion of the church may have been the erection of the Chapter-house, and the introduction of the Sedilia in the choir.

But the Canons were not long content with the structure of their church. We are not, directly, informed at what period they resumed operations; but, as the Compotus of the Priory from 1290 to 1325 contains no payments on that account, we have this confirmation of existing architectural evidence, that it was soon after the latter period that the old choir was deemed incompatible with the condition of their house, and that a structure, exhibiting the more elegant forms of the decorated style, was substituted on its foundation. Except a portion of the inner wall, as high as the base of the windows, and fragments at the junction with the tower, the whole of this part of the church was rebuilt at this period. The south transept was also then, apparently, renewed from the foundation, and ramified windows introduced into the opposite member of the cross aisle. So great, indeed, was their disposition for improvement that they rebuilt the aisle of the nave, and added a parapet and battlements to the clerestory above.

After the lapse of nearly two centuries, the spirit of renovation again moved the house, and while Richard Moon—a native of the adjacent village of Hazlewood—was Prior. In 1520 he began to erect a tower at the west end of the church, after a florid and ambitious design; but the days of monachism were numbered, and the rude hands of Henry were laid upon him, ere the work had risen above the nave.

SURVEY OF THE PRIORY.

The first part of the Priory that attracts the notice of a stranger is this **TOWER**. The exterior exhibits great originality of design; but internally, the sectional outline of the arch by which it should have communicated with the nave is of very insufficient projection. The arms of Clifford and those of the Priory, derived from the bearing of the Earls of Albemarle, are introduced in the spandrels of the doorway. The mouldings of the niches above, after making the heads, expand into the resemblance of embattled turrets—thus betraying a tendency, in the decoration of the work, at least, to the cinque-cento vitiation. A frieze above presents the inscription by which alone Moon has retained the credit of the work :

In the yere of oʊr lord mccc. R. — begaun thes foʊndachon on qʊho
sowl god haue merce. amen.

On the first stage of the south-west buttress stands a figure in a cap and gown reaching to his knees, holding a short staff in his right hand and a round shield under his left arm, a cross-flory being embossed on his breast. Whitaker considered that it represented a pilgrim with his staff and slouched hat; but it may be doubted whether one of those champions by whom wager of battle was conducted was not intended.

THE WEST FRONT of the nave exhibits a deeply-recessed doorway, surmounted by three lancet-lights, and enriched with a series of arcades, true to the still lingering spirit of the old Lombard works, but detailed, of course, in the Early-English style.

THE SOUTH SIDE of the nave is earlier than the north. At its western end we see indications of the roof and wall of the Dormitory; and of the Store-houses, or whatever might be the buildings below. From the point of junction of these buildings with the nave, its south side is decorated with a pointed arcade on cylindrical shafts—exhibiting a good example of the transition from the Norman to the Early-English style. Above this arcade may be observed the corbels and groove by which the penthouse roof of the Cloister has been supported. At the east end of it has been a doorway communicating with the church, and a stoup, exquisitely foliated in undulating lines, like the boss over the western door.

On viewing the INTERIOR, it will be found that the six fine lancet lights of the south side of the nave occupy the space of three opposite arches, and are made, by two shallow pilasters, into three corresponding compartments. These coupled lights—the first approach to a ramified window—are divided in height by a plain and original transom. Some fragments of the coeval STAINED GLASS remain in them, the principal pattern being a red quatre-foil,—enclosing a mascle,—placed between two vertical borders. The triforium, or gallery from the Dormitory of the Canons to the church, crossed the base of these windows; the passage still remaining by which they entered and left the nave.

The opposite side of the nave is divided from its aisle by one cylindrical column placed between two of octagonal form. Above these are four single and plain lancet lights, based on a ponderous string course. On the outside, they are not divided by buttresses, but connected by a dog-toothed string-course passing over the heads, with an elegant and characteristic foliated boss at the point of springing.

THE NORTH AND ONLY AISLE OF THE NAVE has been renewed from the ground in the Decorated period, and is economically rather than unskilfully plain. It has three windows, with tracery of elegant design, and a deeply-moulded doorway towards the west end, surmounted by a trefoil-headed niche.

Of the STAINED GLASS, with which these windows appear to have been finished, there is left, only, in the tracery, fragments of a ruby border, enriched with cinquefoils and fleurs-de-lis; some red roses; and the heads of two kings, which, though evidently coeval with the stone-work, and characteristic of the period, were inadvertently supposed by Dr. Whitaker to have been “a compliment to the unhappy monarch for whom two of the Cliffords successively fought and died.”

The space of one arch at the east end of this aisle is enclosed by a wooden lattice, in the Perpendicular style, except that part which abuts on the pier of the tower, where there is a low wall. This was a CHANTRY CHAPEL, founded, no doubt, soon after the translation of the house by one of its chief benefactors, the Mauleverers of Beamsley; and retains that character by an altar stone, now prostrate on the floor, and the piscina—a plain semicircular-headed recess,—of which the basin has been partially destroyed. At the east end are eight large rough stones, above 7 feet long, laid side by side, and risen above the floor about 20 inches. These cover

the VAULT OF THE CLAPHAMS, of Beamsley, who, according to tradition, were interred there upright; but though we may "look down" through the "chink in the fractured floor," we shall miss "the griesly sight," which, if it ever existed materially, I am sorry to say has long since disappeared.

" Pass, pass who will, yon chantry door,
And, through the chink in the fractured floor
Look down and see a griesly sight;
A Vault where the bodies are buried upright;
There face by face, and hand by hand,
The Claphams and the Mauleverers stand;
And, in his place among son and sire,
Is John de Clapham, that fierce Esquire,
A valiant man, and a man of dread
In the ruthless wars of the White and Red;
Who dragged Earl Pembroke from Banbury Church,
And smote off his head on the stones of the porch."

At the opposite side of the nave was another altar; the PISCINA—a plain round arch and square basin—remaining.

The wooden SCREEN, which divided the nave from the transept, has been removed, since the dissolution, the space of one arch from the western pier of the central tower. It is a plain specimen of Tudor open-work, surmounted by a heavy cornice of quatrefoils; of which, nevertheless, Prior Moon need not lose the credit.

He may be thanked also for the ROOF, a good specimen of carpentry, painted, like many coeval works, with broad lines of vermilion. The beams rest on figures of angels, one of which holds a staff like that exhibited by the statue in the tower, and stands on a crescent or moon; evidently an allusion to the Prior. The cornice is painted in panels, with flowers and heads much faded; and three sculptured bosses of similar design adorn the centre beam. One of these is sagely conjectured, by the country people, to represent the devil; and certainly the great enemy of mankind can have little cause to rejoice at the comparison.

When the nave was retained, after the dissolution, as a place of worship, a wall was raised under the arch by which it communicated with the central tower, and two windows were inserted in it. The upper part, which was merely of lath and plaster, was completed in masonry by Mr. Carr, the late amiable and respected incumbent of Bolton, who, after a faithful discharge of his duty for fifty-four years, died in 1843, and rests immediately below, among scenes and objects he had loved in life, and tended and appreciated so well.

We must now leave the nave, and, in the usual routine, pass to the CENTRAL TOWER. This structure might, originally, have been raised the height of its square above the roofs ; but the arches alone now remain. They are of unequal width : that of the choir being 28 feet and very obtuse ; that of the transept but 18 feet, and, consequently, elegant and acute.

It is probable, from the progressive character exhibited in the tower, that the SOUTH TRANSEPT was, originally, erected before the other. It was afterwards rebuilt, but is now totally rased, except the west wall, which retains two very beautiful decorated windows, and a doorway, of like character, leading to the Cloister-court. When this transept was cleared of rubbish, several years ago, a floor of plain tiles was found, nearly perfect, but depressed by the lapse of graves ; and, towards the north-west corner, a curious, but worn sepulchral memorial of grit stone. It bears a rudely-incised figure of an Austin Monk, with his hands joined in the attitude of prayer, and this brief record :

Wic jarrt d'n's Xpofcr Wod quo'd'm P'or.

by which the tenant of this lonely tomb is identified as Christopher Wood, the eighteenth Prior of the house, who resigned his office on the 10th of July, 1483.

The NORTH TRANSEPT is perfect, except the eastern wall of the aisle, which is entirely demolished. It is divided from this part by two chamfered arches, rising from an octagonal pillar, with a boldly moulded capital. Except this work, and perhaps the inner half of the other walls, the whole transept may have been rebuilt in the Decorated period. At all events, a large ramified window was then inserted in the north wall ; two in the west ; and two, with ungraceful triangular heads, but very good tracery, over the arches on the east side.

The side aisle, which was divided from the transept by a wooden lattice as high as the capital of the column, communicates with the choir by its original semicircular arch ; and near its side remains an equally uninteresting piscina—a mere round-headed recess, like those in the nave.

THE CHOIR.—Except a portion of the interior of the lateral walls, and fragments attached to the piers of the tower, this interesting part of the structure displays that scientific beauty which has vindicated the Decorated style as the perfection of Gothic architecture. It has neither aisles nor triforium, but each side is occupied

by five tall lights, all now, but one, divested of their exquisite tracery. In the east window a few fine flowing fragments still cling to the arch.

The internal effect of the choir is considerably improved, if not in classical, certainly in picturesque effect, by an arcade of semi-circular but intersecting arches, which are continued from its junction with the aisles of the transept to the steps of the altar. They are in two tiers—the western series of nine arches on each side being elevated a little above the other. To amend the irregularity as well as to harmonise this decoration—which the rebuilders in the fourteenth century took some pains to retain—with the general effect of the choir, these skilful and ingenious men inserted a bold and flowing trefoil cornice above the lower range, which brought it level with the base moulding of their windows and the crown of the upper arcade. The mouldings of the archivolt, as well as the capitals of the shafts, are of good character, and the latter are ingeniously diversified.

Beyond this arcade, in the north wall, is an arched RECESS, about 9 inches deep, 9 feet 6 inches in height and width, and flanked by two paneled shafts. It is difficult to say whether this work, which was respected by the rebuilders of the choir, though rude and ungeometrical in the curvature of the arch, has been originally intended for a tomb for the Paschal play of the Resurrection, or for a real interment. It may, indeed, ultimately, have served both purposes; for the plinth, which is continued round the back from the bases of the shafts, retains traces of grout-work, which has been superinduced on it, to the height of 2 feet 6 inches, if not half-way up the recess. Whitaker says a skeleton was once found beneath the arch, and part of a filleting of brass, with the Longobardic letters NEVI; from which he presumed it might pertain to Lady Margaret Neville, whose funeral is mentioned in the Bursar's account of 1318.

Not far from hence is laid the corner of a blue marble SLAB, which is said to have been found in the rubbish, near the arch; but which may be considered to be a fragment of the tomb of John Lord Clifford, K.G., who was slain at Meux, 10 Henry V., and, according to the Chronicle of Kirkstall, was brought home and interred at Bolton. A corresponding fragment, now laid on the opposite side of the choir, is, I believe, the stone which Whitaker observed in the wall of an out-house at Bolton.

A little westward is a large sepulchral slab, much shattered,

which has borne an elaborate memorial or effigy in brass, with a circumscription. It probably covers one of the later Priors, for the outline of a pastoral staff may, apparently, be traced on it.

In their usual position on the south side of the choir are the remains of four SEDILIA and a Piscina of Early-English character, much mutilated; though, when Johnston saw them in 1670, they remained in tolerable perfection. Little more, however, is now left than the bases of the stalls, enriched with a trefoil panel, enclosed in a triangle, alternately reversed in the design. A small portion of three of the niches alone is left, though sufficient to show that the work has been covered with armorial shields, placed in a perpendicular series, double on the back, but single on the sides; the intermediate space being adorned with the rose, which was introduced in the stalls of the Chapter-house, and many Early-English works. As the relief is very slight, the charges of the few remaining shields are totally obliterated. The description of what Johnston observed is recorded in the History of Craven; but it seems to afford no decisive evidence as to the period of their erection, unless the appearance of the shield of Castile and Leon is required to carry back the style beyond the close of the thirteenth century.

On the south side of the choir were two CHAPELS, which extended half its length, and were coeval with its original construction. As the roofs rested on corbels placed in the wall of the church, the portion of it below was suffered to remain when the choir was rebuilt; though, from the appearance at the angle of the adjoining transept, the outer wall of the chapel was then renewed. The dedication of the western chapel, which has been entered from the transept, is forgotten. The other has, unquestionably, been "the last resting-place of the Lords of Skipton, and patrons of Bolton." It communicates with the choir by a doorway, rebuilt together with it, and a contiguous arch, which, having been left in a rude state at its original erection, was then also decorated in the inner surface with blank tracery; and assimilated further with the character of the choir, by the addition of a triangular canopy, of which the outline and finial remain. Under the arch, I doubt not, was laid the effigy of the "Lady Romillè," which Johnston saw in 1670, but which is now entirely lost; and, in the recess in the wall below, I feel equally confident, were deposited the remains of that great patroness of the house, when called to her everlasting reward.

We shall now complete our survey of the ruins most effectually

by turning to the QUADRANGULAR COURT, of which the boundary on the north side is marked by the wall of the nave. On the west was a range of lofty buildings, the lower apartment being, I presume, the STORE-HOUSE ; the upper, the DORMITORY OF THE CANONS. Of the REFECTORY on the south, sufficient remains only to show that it has been a spacious apartment ; and, from its shallow buttresses, coeval with the translation of the house. At its eastern end has been a wide passage, leading to a much larger COURT behind ; around which, and about the site of the present minister's house, were ranged the KITCHENS to the west, some unappropriated offices to the south, and a long chamber, not improbably the GUEST'S HALL, to the east. Still beyond this court is a small detached building, now used as a SCHOOL-HOUSE, and proved by the flat and shallow buttresses to have been of an age little inferior to the refoundation.

The east side of the Cloister-Court is formed by the transept of the church, and at its southern extremity is the passage leading to the Chapter-house. The entrance from the Cloister was rebuilt in the decorated period, but the arch alone remains—a bold and conspicuous object, mantled with ivy, and emulating nature in the foliated capitals of its columns. There is an exquisite glimpse, to be had through it, of the waterfall above the river in one direction, and of Bolton Hall in the other.

The passage has been worthy of the building to which it led, and was of the same age and style. From some fragments of shafts, which adhere to the wall, the sides appear to have been enriched by an arcade, and,—if I am right in my assignation of the bosses that remain before the windows of the hall,—to have had also a handsome and groined roof.

The site of the CHAPTER-HOUSE has been discovered only within recollection, but—having been torn down nearly to the foundation—is even yet sought in vain, by many an unpractised eye. It was an octagonal building, in the Early-English style, of about 30 feet in diameter, the west side having been entirely voided by the passage. There have been, apparently, five stalls on each side, resting on a base of quatrefoils, and ornamented at each angle with three roses of exactly similar character to those exhibited in the sedilia of the choir.

On the south side of the Chapter-house passage, are foundations supposed to have been those of the PRIOR'S LODGE. Another demolished structure at the south-east angle is considered to have

been his chapel. Still eastward of the Chapter-house are swelling mounds, indicative of an enclosure ; and of two buildings, which Whitaker thought might have been the PRIORY MILL. If the site had been more propitious, I could have believed them to have been the lodgings of the Prior.

But we may not linger here ; for the banks and braes of Wharfe now begin to develope their attractions, and the summer's sun will set ere one half of them can be enjoyed.

Yet, hard and unenviable is the heart that turns away from Bolton Church-yard, without a sigh for Emily Norton—

“ Exalted Emily,
Maid of the blasted family ”—

or glances not at the track, up the woods and o'er the fell, by which the memorable White Doe of Rylstone, after the death of her mistress, sought this hallowed sanctuary, each Sabbath morning, and returned again, on the dispersion of the congregation.

After some charming views of the Priory, particularly one including the curvature of the Wharfe, made familiar by pictorial illustration, the path sinks to the bed of the valley, and enters the woods.

Although visitors are permitted to ramble, at pleasure, through the woods, except on Sunday, when ingress is strictly prohibited, the great diversity of paths renders it advisable to avail themselves of a guide, without whose direction many interesting points of view must pass unobserved.

“ About half a mile above Bolton the valley closes, and on each side the Wharf is overhung by deep and solemn woods, from which huge perpendicular masses of grit-stone jut out at intervals.” For a while, the river sweeps on in majestic undulations, exasperated by rocks and swelled by a tributary stream bursting from a woody glen, exhibiting “ its native character—lively, impetuous, and irregular.”

Then for a few moments it reposes by a delicious and verdant holm ; lingering noiselessly in the shade of luxuriant trees, whose slanting boughs stoop to kiss its bosom.

At length its subdued and solemn roar, “ like the voice of the angry spirit of the waters,” disturbs the deep solitude of the woods, and announces the tremendous STRID, which suddenly greets the eye, struggling and foaming in a narrow trench in the rock, through which the whole of the impetuous torrent is poured “ with a rapidity proportioned to its confinement.”

Hither, says the shadowy tradition that, for seven centuries, has invested this awful spot with a mysterious interest, came the Boy



of Egremond, only son of Alice de Romillè, Lady of Skipton, ranging the woods of Bolton with his greyhounds and huntsman; and attempted to cross the gulph.

“ He sprang in glee,—for what cared he
That the river was strong, and the rocks were steep?
But the greyhound in the leash hung back,
And checked him in his leap.
The Boy is in the arms of Wharf,
And strangled by a merciless force;
For never more was young Romilly seen
Till he rose a lifeless corse.”

The forester hastened to Lady Alice, and, with despair in his countenance, intimated misfortune by the significant enquiry,

"What is good for a bootless beane?" by which we may understand, What remains when prayer is unavailing? Yet it was enough; for the presentiment of the anxious mother instantly rejoined, "Endless sorrow;" and, on being assured that such was her lot, she vowed that many a poor man's son should be her heir, and so became the second foundress of Bolton.

The language of this question—now become all but unintelligible—proves the antiquity of the story, which is the next thing to establishing its truth; and, alas, on how many a bright and beautiful dream, has its meaning since intruded!

After all, "no one can stand long by it, without feeling a sense of its power and savage grandeur grow upon him;" and many, inspired by its majestic tone, may feel that it is a place "how tempting to bestride." But its real contraction, which I am told is 4 feet 5 inches, deceives the eye; and there is the greater danger that, in the confusion of insecurity, the attrition of the rocks may betray the bounding step, which—like many another erring but needless act—can never more be recalled.

The contraction of the rock extends about sixty yards; and, "being incapable of receiving the winter floods, has formed, on either side, a broad strand of naked gritstone, full of rock basins or pots of the lin, which bear witness to the impetuosity of so many northern torrents."

By following the main path—sometimes skirting, sometimes rising high above the river bank—you wind up the curvature of the valley, and at a sheltered bower called Pembroke Seat, instinctively halt, to contemplate the glorious prospect of the torrent sweeping, in an "horned flood," far down before you, from the old tower of Barden, shrouded in ancient woods and backed by the purple distance of Thorpe-fell.

Beyond this point, the excursion of those whose time is limited is seldom protracted; but no true lover of nature, or of those associations of by-gone days by which it is enhanced, should refrain, undismayed by the apparent distance, from passing on through Barden Park, to the Tower. It is indeed but a plain Tudor house, enlarged or rebuilt by Henry Clifford, "the Shepherd Lord," from one of the Lodges by which the ancient Chace of Barden was protected; but the scenery around is so exquisitely beautiful—the air of primæval simplicity so pure and refreshing—and the profound seclusion and tranquillity so congenial to the sympathies of the imagination and of the heart, that it needed neither the association

of the virtues, or of the fame of its founder, nor the lays of him by whom they have been sung so worthily and well, to invest its crumbling walls with another and an indestructible enchantment.

The tower was repaired in 1658, by Lady Pembroke, after it had been in ruins about seventy years, but it is abandoned once more to desolation. The chapel, a small and coeval building, attached to the adjoining farm-house, is still preserved, and served by the minister of Bolton.

After you have passed the tower and reached the high road, turn aside down the footpath to Gill-beck fall—a mountain stream dashing down a precipice of forty feet to meet the Wharfe—but return to the picturesque old bridge, to be greeted by the broad sylvan-bounded stream, and Greenhow hill rising in the distance.

At the foot of the bridge it will be well to pass to the opposite side of the river by which you came, and then along the holm; not forgetting often to turn and catch the varying glimpses of Barden, nestling in its dense sylvan repose.

For the gratification which follows, every lover of beauty must be grateful to Mr. Carr, who, “working,” as Wordsworth has said, “with an invisible hand of art in the very spirit of nature,” guided the path along the hill-side, and “laid open the more interesting points, by judicious thinnings in the woods.” From one of these stations, there is a lovely view of the river, towards Barden, and, a little further on, another, in the opposite direction towards the Strid, where the extreme contraction of the valley, at that interesting point, may be, very definitely, observed. At length, we are brought, immediately, above the raging torrent, and, while the eye rises from the depth and luxuriance of the valley, to the green knolls and dreary fells swelling beyond, the ear is charmed by that hoarse roar of “the angry spirit of the waters,” that, for unnumbered ages, has never been subdued nor stilled.

Before the Laund House, on the site of one of the Lodges of Barden, it is worth while to turn aside to an “unwedgable and gnarled oak” that may have successively sheltered Romillè and Albemarle, Clifford, and Boyle. It is 25 feet 4 inches in girth, at 4 feet 6 inches from the ground, for the tortuosity of the trunk prevents its measurement lower.

It needs no persuasion to allure the most careless step towards Posforth-gill—a woody glen that now branches from the vale of Wharfe, implying in its antiquated name the character of its lively

stream. Far down below our path, we are accompanied by the rich, deep umber-coloured but sparkling and translucent beck; sometimes eddying in deep shady pools, then, with renewed force bursting forth and tossing down its rocky bed, fringed and canopied by the mountain ashes that sometimes fill the bosom of the gill with their elegant and graceful luxuriance. After an enchanting prospect down the glen, to which it will be hard to say farewell, the path declines towards "the Valley of Desolation," and crosses Posforth-beck in front of its finest fall, where it is poured in two main streams from the height of 54 feet, with a force that dashes up the spray more than 15 yards. It then ascends the upper or high park, and continues outside the pale—a judicious arrangement, by which the repetition of Posforth-gill, however intrinsically interesting, is avoided, and you gain, from the superior elevation, views of the fells on the opposite side of Wharfedale. After crossing an angle of the lower park, you regain the woody banks of the Wharfe, where you can have the last and not least interesting view of Barden; and, on descending to the holm, pass over the wooden bridge to the path by which you set out.

If you did not approach the Priory by the path through the fields, you may return by that way, to see the PRIORY BARN, which is still occupied; and as a singular specimen of ancient carpentry, deserves attentive examination. But, if that should be no attraction, then, at least, climb the Holm Terrace to enjoy the last and most delicious prospect of the lovely scene from which you are now quickly departing; and to stand—

———— not only with the sense
Of present pleasure, but with pleasing thoughts
That in that moment there is life and food
For future years.

And now, patient companion,—young or old, learned or unlettered, fair or unfavoured,—with whom, alike unseen and unheard, I have traversed these beauteous and diversified scenes, and mused on the legends of the past, I quit my pleasing occupation; sufficiently happy, if I have, for one hour, induced their juster appreciation, or awakened, more sensibly, in thy breast, the patriotic sentiment of the chronicler of old:

Engelonde is a wel god londr, I wene of eche londr best.

THE END.





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